



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6 : C12N 15/12, 15/85, 5/10, C12Q 1/68, C07K 14/72, 14/685, G01N 33/566, A61K 38/17		A2	(11) International Publication Number: WO 98/10068 (43) International Publication Date: 12 March 1998 (12.03.98)		
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US97/15565		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (GH, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).			
(22) International Filing Date: 4 September 1997 (04.09.97)					
(30) Priority Data: 08/706,281 4 September 1996 (04.09.96) US					
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(54) Title: METHODS AND REAGENTS FOR DISCOVERING AND USING MAMMALIAN MELANOCORTIN RECEPTOR AGONISTS AND ANTAGONISTS TO MODULATE FEEDING BEHAVIOR IN ANIMALS					
(57) Abstract:					
<p>The present invention provides recombinant expression constructs comprising nucleic acid encoding mammalian melanocortin receptors, and mammalian cells into which said recombinant expression constructs have been introduced that express functional mammalian melanocortin receptors. The invention provides a panel of such transformed mammalian cells expressing melanocortin receptors for screening compounds for receptor agonist and antagonist activity. The invention also provides methods for using such panels of melanocortin receptor-expressing mammalian cells to specifically detect and identify agonists and antagonists for each melanocortin receptor, as well as patterns of agonist and antagonist activity of said compounds for the class of melanocortin receptors. Such screening methods provide a means for identifying compounds with patterns of melanocortin agonist and antagonist activity which is associated with the capacity to influence or modify metabolism and behavior, particularly feeding behavior.</p>					

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**METHODS AND REAGENTS FOR DISCOVERING AND USING
MAMMALIAN MELANOCORTIN RECEPTOR AGONISTS AND
ANTAGONISTS TO MODULATE FEEDING BEHAVIOR IN ANIMALS**

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to the cloning, expression and functional characterization of mammalian melanocortin receptor genes. The invention provides nucleic acid encoding mammalian melanocortin receptors, recombinant expression constructs comprising said nucleic acid, and mammalian cells into which said recombinant expression constructs have been introduced, and that express functional mammalian melanocortin receptors. The invention also provides a panel of such transformed mammalian cells expressing melanocortin receptors for screening compounds for receptor agonist and antagonist activity. The invention provides methods for using such panels of melanocortin receptor-expressing mammalian cells to specifically detect and identify agonists and antagonists for each melanocortin receptor, as well as patterns of agonist and antagonist activity of said compounds for the class of melanocortin receptors. Such screening methods provide a means for identifying compounds with patterns of melanocortin agonist and antagonist activity which is associated with the capacity to influence or modify physiological function and behavior, particularly metabolism and feeding behavior.

2. Background of the Invention

The proopiomelanocortin (POMC) gene product is processed to produce a large number of biologically active peptides. Two of these peptides, α -melanocyte stimulating hormone (α MSH), and adrenocorticotropic hormone (ACTH) have well understood roles in control of melanocyte and adrenocortical function, respectively. Both of these hormones are also found in a variety of forms with unknown functions, for example, γ -melanocyte stimulating hormone (γ MSH), which has little or no ability to stimulate pigmentation (Ling *et al.*, 1979, *Life Sci.* **25**: 1773-1780; Slominski *et al.*, 1992, *Life Sci.* **50**: 1103-1108). A melanocortin receptor gene specific for each of the α MSH, ACTH and γ MSH hormones has been discovered by some of the present inventors (see U.S. Patent Nos. 5,280,112, 5,532,347 and U.S. Application Serial No. 08/044,812, incorporated by reference herein). In addition, two other melanocortin receptor genes

have been discovered by some of the present inventors (see Lu *et al.*, 1994, *Nature* **371**: 799-802; Mountjoy *et al.*, 1994, *Molec. Endocrinol.* **8**: 1298-1308) and others (see Gantz *et al.*, 1993, *J. Biol. Chem.* **268**: 15174-15179 and Labbe *et al.*, 1994, *Biochem.* **33**: 4543-4549).

5 Along with the well-recognized activities of α MSH in melanocytes and ACTH in adrenal and pituitary glands, the melanocortin peptides also have a diverse array of biological activities in other tissues, including the brain and immune system, and bind to specific receptors in these tissues with a distinct pharmacology (see, Hanneman *et al.*, in *Peptide Hormone as Prohormones*, G. Martinez, ed. (Ellis Horwood Ltd.: Chichester, UK) pp. 53-82; DeWied & Jolles, 1982, *Physiol. Rev.* **62**: 976-1059 for reviews). A complete understanding of these peptides and their diverse biological activities requires the isolation and characterization of their corresponding receptors. Some biochemical studies have been reported in the prior art.

10 Shimuze, 1985, *Yale J. Biol. Med.* **58**: 561-570 discusses the physiology of melanocyte stimulating hormone.

15 Tatro & Reichlin, 1987, *Endocrinology* **121**: 1900-1907 disclose that MSH receptors are widely distributed in rodent tissues.

20 Sola *et al.*, 1989, *J. Biol. Chem.* **264**: 14277-14280 disclose the molecular weight characterization of mouse and human MSH receptors linked to radioactively and photoaffinity labeled MSH analogues.

Siegrist *et al.*, 1991, *J. Receptor Res.* **11**: 323-331 disclose the quantification of receptors on mouse melanoma tissue by receptor autoradiography.

Cone & Mountjoy, U.S. Patent No. 5,532,347 disclose the isolation of human and mouse α -MSH receptor genes and uses thereof (incorporated herein by reference).

25 Cone & Mountjoy, U.S. Patent No. 5,280,112 disclose the isolation of human and bovine ACTH receptor genes and uses thereof (incorporated herein by reference).

Mountjoy *et al.*, 1992, *Science* **257**: 1248-1251 disclose the isolation of cDNAs encoding mammalian ACTH and MSH receptor proteins.

30 POMC neurons are present in only two regions of the brain, the arcuate nucleus of the hypothalamus, and the nucleus of the solitary tract of the brain stem. Neurons from both sites project to a number of hypothalamic nuclei known to be important in feeding behavior, including the paraventricular nucleus, lateral hypothalamic area, and

ventromedial hypothalamic nucleus. While previous reports have claimed both stimulatory and inhibitory effects of α -MSH on feeding behavior (see Shimizu *et al.*, 1989, *Life Sci.* 45: 543-552; Tsujii *et al.*, 1989, *Brian Res. Bull.* 23: 165-169), knowledge of specific melanocortin receptors, their location within the central nervous system and the necessary pharmacological tools were not sufficiently developed at that time to allow the resolution of this issue. The present inventors have shown herein that a novel antagonist of the MC-3 and MC-4 melanocortin receptors can substantially increase food consumption in animals engaged in normal or fast-induced feeding behavior. This is consistent with expression of both MC-3 and MC-4 receptor mRNAs at these sites in *in situ* hybridization studies (Roselli-Rehfuss *et al.*, 1993, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 90: 8856-8860; Mountjoy *et al.*, 1994, *Molec. Endocrinol.* 8: 1298-1308). Moreover, the regulation of arcuate nucleus POMC gene expression is consistent with an inhibitory role for POMC in feeding behavior. POMC mRNA levels are decreased following a fast (Bergendahl *et al.*, 1992, *Neuroendocrinol.* 56: 913-920; Brady *et al.*, 1990, *Neuroendocrinol.* 52: 441-447), and a significant diurnal variation in POMC mRNA levels in the arcuate nucleus is seen in rat, with the nadir occurring around the onset of nighttime feeding at 1800 hrs (Steiner *et al.*, 1994, *FASEB J.* 8: 479-488).

Thus, the experimental evidence indicates that POMC neurons play an important role in tonic inhibition of feeding behavior, wherein obesity results from a chronic disruption of this inhibitory tone by antagonism of central melanocortin receptors in at least one animal model (*agouti*).

These results reveal for the first time a need in the art for a means for characterizing mammalian melanocortin receptor agonists and antagonists *in vitro* for the development of compounds that affect feeding behavior in animals.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a biological screening system for identifying and characterizing compounds that are agonists or antagonists of mammalian melanocortin receptors. The biological screening system of the invention comprises a panel of transformed mammalian cells comprising a recombinant expression construct encoding

a mammalian melanocortin receptor, and expressing said receptor thereby. The invention provides such a panel of transformed mammalian cells wherein the panel comprises cells expressing each type of mammalian melanocortin receptor. Thus, the invention also provides nucleic acid encoding mammalian melanocortin receptors, recombinant expression constructs comprising said nucleic acid, and mammalian cells into which said recombinant expression constructs have been introduced, and that express functional mammalian melanocortin receptors. Methods for using such panels of melanocortin receptor-expressing mammalian cells to specifically detect and identify agonists and antagonists for each melanocortin receptor, as well as patterns of agonist and antagonist activity of said compounds for the class of melanocortin receptors, are also provided. Such screening methods provide a means for identifying compounds with patterns of melanocortin agonist and antagonist activity which is associated with the capacity to influence or modify metabolism and behavior in an animal, particularly feeding behavior.

Thus, the invention provides in a first aspect a biological screening panel for determining the melanocortin receptor agonist/antagonist profile of a test compound. The panel comprises a first mammalian cell comprising a recombinant expression construct encoding a mammalian melanocortin receptor that is the α -MSH (MC-1) receptor. The panel also comprises a second mammalian cell comprising a recombinant expression construct encoding a mammalian melanocortin receptor that is the ACTH (MC-2) receptor. The panel also comprises a third mammalian cell comprising a recombinant expression construct encoding a mammalian melanocortin receptor that is the MC-3 receptor. The panel also comprises a fourth mammalian cell comprising a recombinant expression construct encoding a mammalian melanocortin receptor that is the MC-4 receptor. The panel also comprises a fifth mammalian cell comprising a recombinant expression construct encoding a mammalian melanocortin receptor that is the MC-5 receptor. As provided by the invention, each mammalian cell expresses the melanocortin receptor encoded by the recombinant expression construct comprising said cell.

In preferred embodiments, the melanocortin receptors encoded by the recombinant expression constructs comprising the transformed mammalian cells comprising the panel are mouse MC-1 receptor (SEQ ID Nos.: 3 and 4); human MC-1

receptor (SEQ ID Nos.: 5 and 6), human MC-2 (ACTH) receptor (SEQ ID Nos.: 7 and 8), bovine MC-2 receptor (SEQ ID Nos.: 9 and 10), rat MC-3 receptor (SEQ ID Nos.: 11 and 12), human MC-4 receptor (SEQ ID Nos.: 15 and 16) and mouse MC-5 receptor (SEQ ID Nos.: 17 and 18).

5 In a second aspect, the invention provides a method for using the melanocortin receptor panel to identify and characterize test compounds as melanocortin receptor agonists and/or antagonists. In this embodiment, the method provided by the invention identifies a melanocortin receptor agonist, and comprises the steps of contacting each of the cells of the panel with a test compound to be characterized as an agonist of a
10 mammalian melanocortin receptor and detecting binding of the test compound to each of the mammalian melanocortin receptors by assaying for a metabolite produced in the cells that bind the compound. In a preferred embodiment, the detected metabolite is cAMP.

15 In a preferred embodiment of this method, each of the cells of the panel of mammalian cells expressing mammalian melanocortin receptors further comprises a recombinant expression construct encoding a cyclic AMP responsive element (CRE) transcription factor binding site that is operatively linked to a nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein capable of producing a detectable metabolite. In preferred embodiments, said protein is β -galactosidase, most preferably encoded by a nucleic acid
20 comprising the recombinant expression construct identified as pCRE/ β -galactosidase (as disclosed in Chen *et al.*, 1994, *Analyt. Biochem.* 226: 349-354). As provided by the invention, expression of the protein that produces the detectable metabolite is dependent on binding of the test compound to the melanocortin receptor expressed by each cell in the panel and the intracellular production of cAMP as a result. In this embodiment,
25 cAMP production results in expression of a protein capable of producing a detectable metabolite, the protein most preferably being β -galactosidase. In preferred embodiments, the detectable metabolite absorbs light to produce a colored product. Thus, this embodiment of the invention provides a panel of melanocortin receptor-expressing cells whereby melanocortin hormone binding results in the production of a
30 colored product in proportion to the extent of cAMP production in the cell as a result of hormone receptor binding.

In another embodiment of this aspect of the invention is provided a method for characterizing a compound as an antagonist of a mammalian melanocortin receptor. In this embodiment, the method comprises the steps of contacting each of the cells of the panel with an agonist of the mammalian melanocortin receptor in an amount sufficient to produce a detectable amount of a metabolite produced in the cells that bind the agonist, in the presence or absence of a test compound to be characterized as an antagonist of a mammalian melanocortin receptor, and detecting the amount of the metabolite produced in each cell in the panel in the presence of the test compound with the amount of the metabolite produced in each cell in the panel in the absence of the test compound. As provided by the assay, inhibition of the production of the detectable metabolite is used as an indication that the tested compound is a melanocortin receptor antagonist, which is further characterized quantitatively by the extent of said inhibition.

In a preferred embodiment of this method, each of the cells of the panel of mammalian cells expressing mammalian melanocortin receptors further comprises a recombinant expression construct encoding a cyclic AMP responsive element (CRE) transcription factor binding site that is operatively linked to a nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein capable of producing a detectable metabolite. In preferred embodiments, said protein is β -galactosidase, most preferably encoded by a nucleic acid comprising the recombinant expression construct identified as pCRE/ β -galactosidase. As provided by the invention, expression of the protein that produces the detectable metabolite is dependent on binding of the test compound to the melanocortin receptor expressed by each cell in the panel. In preferred embodiments, the detectable metabolite absorbs light to produce a colored product. Thus, this embodiment of the invention provides a panel of melanocortin receptor-expressing cells whereby melanocortin hormone binding results in the production of a colored product in proportion to the extent of cAMP production in the cell as a result of hormone receptor binding.

The invention also provides melanocortin receptor agonists identified by the methods and using the screening panel of the invention. In preferred embodiments, the agonist is an agonist of the MC-3 mammalian melanocortin receptor. In other preferred embodiments, the agonist is an agonist of the MC-4 mammalian melanocortin receptor.

The invention provides melanocortin receptor antagonists identified by the methods and using the screening panel of the invention. In preferred embodiments, the

antagonist is an antagonist of the MC-3 mammalian melanocortin receptor. In other preferred embodiments, the antagonist is an antagonist of the MC-4 mammalian melanocortin receptor.

The invention also provides methods for characterizing mammalian melanocortin receptor agonists for the capacity to modify or influence metabolism and feeding behavior in an animal. In a first aspect, the invention provides a method for characterizing melanocortin receptor MC-3 or MC-4 agonists as inhibitors of feeding behavior in an animal, the method comprising the steps of providing food to an animal that has been deprived of food for at least 12 hours, with or without administering to the animal an MC-3 or MC-4 receptor agonist of the invention, and comparing the amount of food eaten by the animal after administration of the MC-3 or MC-4 receptor agonist with the amount of food eaten by the animal without administration of the MC-3 or MC-4 receptor agonist.

In another aspect, the invention provides a method for characterizing a melanocortin MC-3 or MC-4 receptor antagonist as a stimulator of feeding behavior in an animal. In this embodiment, the method comprises the steps of providing food to an animal not deprived of food for at least 12 hours, with or without administering to the animal an MC-3 or MC-4 receptor antagonist, immediately prior to the onset of darkness or nighttime, and comparing the amount of food eaten by the animal after administration of the MC-3 or MC-4 receptor antagonist with the amount of food eaten by the animal without administration of the MC-3 or MC-4 receptor antagonist.

Thus, the invention also provides methods for using certain of the melanocortin receptor agonists and antagonists for modifying feeding behavior in an animal. In a first aspect, the invention provides a method for stimulating feeding in an animal, the method comprising administering to the animal an MC-3 or MC-4 receptor antagonist. In a preferred embodiment, the antagonists are administered systemically. In additional embodiments, the antagonists are administered intracerebroventricularly.

In another aspect, the invention provides a method for inhibiting feeding in an animal, the method comprising administering to the animal an MC-3 or MC-4 receptor agonist. In a preferred embodiment, the agonists are administered systemically. In additional embodiments, the agonists are administered intracerebroventricularly.

In yet another aspect, the invention provides mammalian melanocortin receptor agonists having the general formula:



wherein A is an aliphatic amino acid residue, including for example Leu, Ile, Nle and Met, as well as analogues and substituted derivatives thereof; B is an acidic amino acid residue, including for example Asp and Glu; C is a basic amino acid residue, such as His; D is an aromatic amino acid residue having a D- conformation, including D-Phe, D-Tyr and substituted derivatives thereof; E is a basic amino acid residue, for example Arg, Lys, homoArg, homoLys, and analogues or substituted derivatives thereof; F is Trp or substituted derivatives thereof; and G is Lys, homoLys or a substituted derivative thereof. In the peptide embodiments of the melanocortin receptor agonists of the invention, the peptide is cyclized by the formation of an amide bond between the side chain carboxyl group of the Asp or Glu residue at position B in the peptide, and the side chain amino group of the Lys or homoLys residue at position G. In preferred embodiments, the melanocortin receptor agonists of the invention are agonists of the MC-3 or MC-4 receptor.

The invention also provides mammalian melanocortin receptor antagonists having the general formula:



wherein A is an aliphatic amino acid residue, including for example Leu, Ile, Nle and Met, as well as analogues and substituted derivatives thereof; B is an acidic amino acid residue, including for example Asp and Glu; C is a basic amino acid residue, such as His; D is an aromatic amino acid residue having a D- conformation, including D-Nal and substituted derivatives thereof; E is a basic amino acid residue, for example Arg, Lys, homoArg, homoLys, and analogues or substituted derivatives thereof; F is Trp or substituted derivatives thereof; and G is Lys, homoLys or a substituted derivative thereof. In the peptide embodiments of the melanocortin receptor antagonists of the invention, the peptide is cyclized by the formation of an amide bond between the side chain carboxyl group of the Asp or Glu residue at position B in the peptide, and the side chain amino group of the Lys or homoLys residue at position G. In preferred embodiments, the melanocortin receptor antagonists of the invention are agonists of the MC-3 or MC-4 receptor.

It is an advantage of the present invention that it provides an *in vitro* screening method for characterizing compounds having melanocortin receptor activities that relate to feeding behavior in animals. Specifically, the invention advantageously provides means and methods for identifying compounds having melanocortin receptor agonist and/or antagonist activity that have been associated with either stimulating or inhibiting feeding behavior when administered to an animal. The invention thus provides an economical first step in screening compounds for the capacity to affect feeding behavior, including synthetic, peptidomimetic or organomimetic derivatives of melanocortin receptor agonists or antagonists as disclosed herein or elsewhere.

Specific preferred embodiments of the present invention will become evident from the following more detailed description of certain preferred embodiments and the claims.

15

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figures 1A and 1B illustrate the nucleotide (SEQ ID No.: 3) and amino acid (SEQ ID No.: 4) sequence of the mouse melanocyte stimulating hormone receptor gene.

Figures 2A and 2B illustrate the nucleotide (SEQ ID No.: 5) and amino acid (SEQ ID No.: 6) sequence of the human melanocyte stimulating hormone receptor gene.

Figures 3A and 3B illustrate the nucleotide (SEQ ID No.: 7) and amino acid (SEQ ID No.: 8) sequence of the human adrenocorticotropic stimulating hormone receptor gene.

Figures 4A and 4B illustrate the nucleotide (SEQ ID No.: 9) and amino acid (SEQ ID No.: 10) sequence of the bovine adrenocorticotropic stimulating hormone receptor gene.

Figures 5A and 5B illustrate the nucleotide (SEQ ID No.: 11) and amino acid (SEQ ID No.: 12) sequence of the rat melanocortin-3 receptor gene.

Figures 6A and 6B illustrate the nucleotide (SEQ ID No.: 15) and amino acid (SEQ ID No.: 16) sequence of the human melanocortin-4 receptor gene.

Figures 7A and 7B illustrate the nucleotide (SEQ ID No.: 17) and amino acid (SEQ ID No.: 18) sequence of the mouse melanocortin-5 receptor gene.

Figure 8 shows a graph of intracellular cAMP accumulation resulting from melanocyte stimulating hormone receptor agonist binding in human 293 cells transfected with a MSH receptor-encoding recombinant expression construct, wherein -□- represents binding of NDP-MSH, -○- represents binding of ACTH and -Δ- represents binding of αMSH.

Figure 9 illustrates the cAMP response of mouse Y1 cells to binding of melanocortin peptides to human melanocortin-2 (ACTH) receptor, as measured by the β-galactosidase assay described in Example 4, wherein -■- represents binding to wild-type ACTH-R and -▲- represents binding to an ACTH-R variant.

Figure 10 illustrates the results of competition binding experiments of melanocortin peptides to cells expressing a recombinant expression construct encoding the rat melanocortin-3 receptor, wherein -■- represents binding of NDP-MSH, -▲- represents binding of γMSH, -●- represents binding of αMSH, -○- represents binding of ACTH₄₋₁₀ and -□- represents binding of ORG2766.

Figures 11A through 11C illustrate the results of experiments showing intracellular cAMP accumulation caused by receptor-ligand binding in human 293 cells expressing the MC-3 receptor. In Figure 11A, -●- represents binding of αMSH, -■- represents binding of γ₂-MSH, -▲- represents binding of des-acetyl αMSH and -□- represents binding of ACTH₁₋₃₉. In Figure 11B, -●- represents binding of γ₁-MSH, -■- represents binding of γ₂-MSH and -▲- represents binding of des-acetyl γ -MSH. In Figure 11C, -●- represents binding of ACTH₄₋₁₀, -■- represents binding of NDP-MSH and -▲- represents binding of ORG2766.

Figure 12 shows a graph of intracellular cAMP accumulation resulting from peptide binding to human melanocortin-4 receptor agonist in human 293 cells transfected with a MC-4 receptor-encoding recombinant expression construct, wherein -□- represents binding of ACTH₄₋₁₀, -●- represents binding of ACTH₁₋₃₉, -■- represents binding of NDP-MSH, -○- represents binding of αMSH, -Δ- represents binding of γ₂-MSH, and -▲- represents binding of des-acetyl αMSH.

Figure 13 illustrates the results of cAMP accumulation and cAMP-dependent β-galactosidase assays of melanocortin peptide binding to a rat melanocortin-5 receptor, wherein -□- represents binding of αMSH, -Δ- represents binding of β-MSH, and -○-

represents binding of γ -MSH, each determined using the β -gal method, and wherein -■- represents binding of α MSH, -▲- represents binding of β -MSH, and -●- represents binding of γ -MSH, each determined using the cAMP method.

Figure 14 illustrates the structure of the pCRE/ β -gal plasmid.

5 Figure 15 illustrates the results of the β -galactosidase-coupled, colorimetric melanocortin receptor binding assay using cells expressing each of the MC- 1, MC-3, MC4 or MC-5 receptors and contacted with α MSH or a variety of α MSH analogues, wherein -■- represents binding of α MSH, -▲- represents binding of NDP-MSH, -●- represents binding of SHU9128 (*para*-F1 substituted), -□- represents binding of SHU9203 (*p*-Cl substituted), -Δ- represents binding of SHU8914 (*p*-I substituted), and -○- represents binding of SHU9119.

10 Figures 16A through 16 D show the results of the β -galactosidase-coupled, colorimetric melanocortin receptor binding assay to determine antagonist activity of melanocortin analogues SHU9119 and SHU8914 in cells expressing each of the melanocortin receptors MC-3 and MC-4. In Figure 16A, -■- represents binding of α MSH, -□- represents binding of 100nM SHU9119, -Δ- represents binding of 10nM SHU9119, and -○- represents binding of 1nM SHU9119. In Figure 16B, -■- represents binding of α MSH, -□- represents binding of 100nM SHU9119, -Δ- represents binding of 50nM SHU9119, and -○- represents binding of 10nM SHU9119. In Figure 16C, -■- represents binding of α MSH, -□- represents binding of 1000nM SHU8914, -Δ- represents binding of 100nM SHU8914, and -○- represents binding of 10nM SHU8614. In Figure 16D, -■- represents binding of α MSH, -□- represents binding of 100nM SHU8914, -Δ- represents binding of 50nM SHU8914, and -○- represents binding of 10nM SHU8614.

15 Figure 17 shows the results of classic competition binding assays using the melanocortin analogues SHU9119 and SHU8914 at the MC3-R and MC4-R receptors, wherein -■- represents binding of NDP-MSH, -Δ- represents binding of SHU8914 (*p*-I substituted), and -○- represents binding of SHU9119.

20 Figures 18A and 18B shows the results of cAMP accumulation experiments (performed using the β -galactosidase assay of Example 4) for rat MC-3 receptor (Figure 18A) and for mouse MC-4 receptor (Figure 18B). In Figure 18A, -■- represents

binding of NDP-MSH, -▲- represents binding of MTII and -▼- represents binding of forskolin. In Figure 18B, -■- represents binding of MTII, -▲- represents binding of NDP-MSH and -▼- represents binding of forskolin.

Figures 19A through 19C show the effect on food intake of intracerebroventricular administration of melanocortin analogue SHU9119 in mice. In Figure 19A, -■- represents administration of acsf (n=7) and -●- represents administration of 6nmol of SHU9119 (n=6). In Figure 19B, -■- represents administration of acsf (n=6) and -□- represents administration of 6nmol of SHU9119 (n=6). In Figure 19C, -○- represents administration of acsf (n=11) and -●- represents administration of 6nmol of SHU9119 (n=12).

Figures 20A through 20C show the effect on food intake of intracerebroventricular administration of melanocortin analogue MTII in mice. In Figure 20A, -●- represents administration of acsf (n=8), -▼- represents administration of 0.1nmol MTII (n=8), -■- represents administration of 1nmol MTII (n=7) and -▲- represents administration of 3nmol MTII (n=9). In Figure 20B, -●- represents administration of acsf (n=12), -□- represents administration of 3nmol MTII and 6nmol SHU9119 (n=9) and -▲- represents administration of 3nmol MTII (n=9).

Figure 20D shows the effect on locomotor activity of intracerebroventricular administration of melanocortin analogue MTII in mice, wherein -■- represents administration of vehicle alone (n=6) and -▲- represents administration of 3nmol MTII (n=6).

Figures 21A through 21D show the effect on food intake of intracerebroventricular administration of melanocortin analogue MTII in mice. In Figure 21A, -●- represents administration of acsf (n=6) and -▲- represents administration of 3nmol MTII (n=7). In Figure 21B, open bars represent administration of acsf (n=6), solid bars represents administration of 1.18nmol neuropeptide Y (NPY; n=6) and stipled bars represents administration of 3nmol MTII and 1.18nmol NPY (n=6). In Figure 21C, -●- represents administration of acsf (n=7) and -▲- represents administration of 3nmol MTII (n=7). In Figure 21D, -■- represents administration of 100nmol MTII (n=6) and -▲- represents administration of vehicle alone (n=6).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The term "melanocortin receptor" as used herein reference to proteins having the biological activity of any of the disclosed melanocortin receptors, including the MC-1 (SEQ ID Nos.: 3, 4, 5 and 6), MC-2 (ACTH; SEQ ID Nos.: 7, 8, 9 and 10), MC-3 (SEQ ID Nos.: 11 and 12), MC-4 (SEQ ID Nos.: 15 and 16) or MC-5 (SEQ ID Nos.: 17 and 18) receptors, as well as naturally-occurring and genetically-engineered allelic variations in these sequences.

5

Cloned nucleic acid provided by the present invention may encode MC receptor protein of any species of origin, including, for example, mouse, rat, rabbit, cat, and human, but preferably the nucleic acid provided by the invention encodes MC receptors of mammalian, most preferably rodent and human, origin.

10

The production of proteins such as the MC receptors from cloned genes by genetic engineering means is well known in this art. The discussion which follows is accordingly intended as an overview of this field, and is not intended to reflect the full state of the art.

15

DNA which encodes MC receptors may be obtained, in view of the instant disclosure, by chemical synthesis, by screening reverse transcripts of mRNA from appropriate cells or cell line cultures, by screening genomic libraries from appropriate cells, or by combinations of these procedures, as illustrated below. Screening of mRNA or genomic DNA may be carried out with oligonucleotide probes generated from the MC receptor gene sequence information provided herein. Probes may be labeled with a detectable group such as a fluorescent group, a radioactive atom or a chemiluminescent group in accordance with known procedures and used in conventional hybridization assays, as described in greater detail in the Examples below. In the alternative, MC receptor gene sequences may be obtained by use of the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) procedure, with the PCR oligonucleotide primers being produced from the MC receptor gene sequences provided herein. See U.S. Patent Nos. 4,683,195 to Mullis *et al.* and 4,683,202 to Mullis.

20

MC receptor proteins may be synthesized in host cells transformed with a recombinant expression construct comprising a nucleic acid encoding each of the receptors disclosed herein. Such a recombinant expression construct can also be comprised of a vector that is a replicable DNA construct. Vectors are used herein either

25

30

to amplify DNA encoding an MC receptor and/or to express DNA which encodes an MC receptor. For the purposes of this invention, a recombinant expression construct is a replicable DNA construct in which a DNA sequence encoding an MC receptor is operably linked to suitable control sequences capable of effecting the expression of the receptor in a suitable host cell. The need for such control sequences will vary depending upon the host selected and the transformation method chosen. Generally, control sequences include a transcriptional promoter, an optional operator sequence to control transcription, a sequence encoding suitable mRNA ribosomal binding sites, and sequences which control the termination of transcription and translation. Amplification vectors do not require expression control domains. All that is needed is the ability to replicate in a host, usually conferred by an origin of replication, and a selection gene to facilitate recognition of transformants. See, Sambrook *et al.*, 1990, Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual (Cold Spring Harbor Press: New York).

Also specifically provided by the invention are reporter expression constructs comprising a nucleic acid encoding a protein capable of expressing a detectable phenotype, such as the production of a detectable reporter molecule, in a cell expressing the construct. Such constructs can be used for producing recombinant mammalian cell lines in which the reporter construct is stably expressed. Most preferably, however, the reporter construct is provided and used to induce transient expression over an experimental period of from about 18 to 96 hrs in which detection of the reporter protein-produced detectable metabolite comprises an assay. Such reporter expression constructs are also provided wherein induction of expression of the reporter construct is controlled by a responsive element operatively linked to the coding sequence of the reporter protein, so that expression is induced only upon proper stimulation of the responsive element. Exemplary of such a responsive element is a cAMP responsive element (CRE), which induces expression of the reporter protein as a result of an increase in intracellular cAMP concentration. In the context of the present invention, such a stimulus is associated with melanocortin receptor binding, so that a reporter construct comprising one or more CREs is induced to express the reporter protein upon binding of a receptor agonist to a MC receptor in a recombinantly transformed mammalian cell. Production and use of such a reporter construct is illustrated below in Example 5.

Vectors useful for practicing the present invention include plasmids, viruses (including phage), retroviruses, and integratable DNA fragments (*i.e.*, fragments integratable into the host genome by homologous recombination). The vector replicates and functions independently of the host genome, or may, in some instances, integrate 5 into the genome itself. Suitable vectors will contain replicon and control sequences which are derived from species compatible with the intended expression host. A preferred vector is the plasmid pcDNA/neo I. Transformed host cells are cells which have been transformed or transfected with recombinant expression constructs made using recombinant DNA techniques and comprising mammalian MC receptor-encoding 10 sequences. Preferred host cells are human 293 cells. Preferred host cells for the MC-2 (ACTH) receptor are Y1 cells (subclone OS3 or Y6). Transformed host cells are chosen that ordinarily express functional MC receptor protein introduced using the recombinant expression construct. When expressed, the mammalian MC receptor protein will typically be located in the host cell membrane. *See, Sambrook et al., ibid.*

15 Cultures of cells derived from multicellular organisms are a desirable host for recombinant MC receptor protein synthesis. In principal, any higher eukaryotic cell culture is workable, whether from vertebrate or invertebrate culture. However, mammalian cells are preferred, as illustrated in the Examples. Propagation of such cells in cell culture has become a routine procedure. *See Tissue Culture, Academic Press, Kruse & Patterson, editors (1973).* Examples of useful host cell lines are human 293 20 cells, VERO and HeLa cells, Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cell lines, mouse Y1 (subclone OS3), and WI138, BHK, COS-7, CV, and MDCK cell lines. Human 293 cells are preferred.

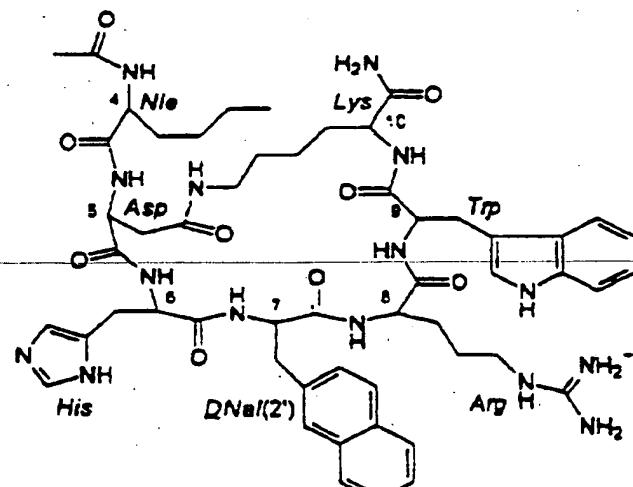
25 Cells expressing mammalian MC receptor proteins made from cloned genes in accordance with the present invention may be used for screening agonist and antagonist compounds for MC receptor activity. Competitive binding assays are well known in the art and are described in the Examples below. Such assays are useful for drug screening of MC receptor agonist and antagonist compounds, as detected in receptor binding assays as described below.

30 One particular use of such screening assays are for developing drugs and other compounds useful in modifying or changing feeding behavior in mammals. The invention provides an assay system, comprising a panel of recombinant mammalian

cells, heterologously expressing each of the MC receptors disclosed herein, wherein the panel is constructed of at least one cell line expressing an MC receptor, and most preferably comprising cells expressing each of the MC receptors. The invention provides such panels also comprising a detection means for detecting receptor agonist or antagonist binding, such as the reporter expression constructs described herein, using direct binding and competition binding assays as described in the Examples below. In the use of this panel, each MC receptor is assayed for agonist or antagonist patterns of binding a test compound, and a characteristic pattern of binding for all MC receptors is thereby determined for each test compound. This pattern is then compared with known MC receptor agonists and antagonists to identify new compounds having a pattern of receptor binding activity associated with a particular behavioral or physiological effect.

For example, provided herein is experimental evidence that MC-3 or MC-4 receptor antagonists are capable of stimulating feeding in hungry animals, and that MC-3 or MC-4 agonists are capable of inhibiting feeding in animals otherwise stimulated to eat. The invention provides an *in vitro* assay to characterize MC-3 and MC-4 agonists/antagonists as a preliminary and economical step towards developing feeding behavior-modulating drugs for use *in vivo*.

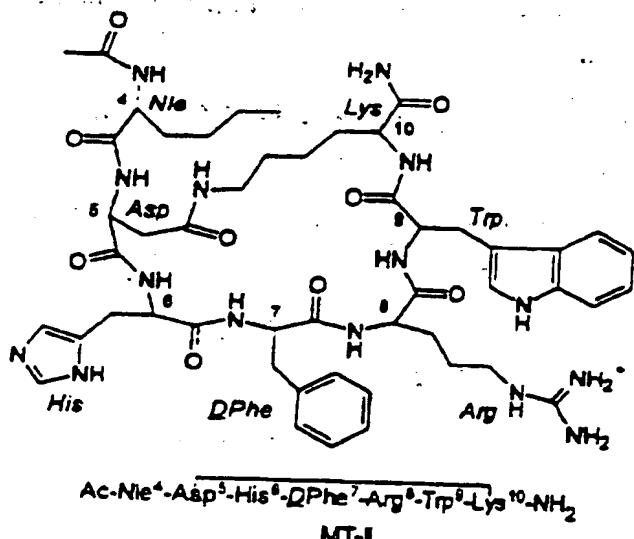
These results on feeding behavior *in vivo* have been obtained with certain MC receptor binding analogues, SHU9119 and MTII. These compounds have the following chemical structure:



Ac-Nle⁴-Asp⁵-His⁶-DNaL(2')⁷-Arg⁸-Tyr⁹-Lys¹⁰-NH₂
SHU-9119

5

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Ac-Nle¹-Asp²-His³-Dphe⁴-Arg⁵-Trp⁶-Lys⁷-NH₂
MT-II

Generally, those skilled in the art will recognize that peptides as described herein may be modified by a variety of chemical techniques to produce compounds having essentially the same activity as the unmodified peptide, and optionally having other desirable properties. For example, carboxylic acid groups of the peptide, whether carboxyl-terminal or sidechain, may be provided in the form of a salt of a pharmaceutically-acceptable cation or esterified to form a C₁-C₁₆ ester, or converted to an amide of formula NR₁R₂ wherein R₁ and R₂ are each independently H or C₁-C₁₆ alkyl, or combined to form a heterocyclic ring, such as 5- or 6-membered. Amino groups of the peptide, whether amino-terminal or sidechain, may be in the form of a pharmaceutically-acceptable acid addition salt, such as the HCl, HBr, acetic, benzoic, toluene sulfonic, maleic, tartaric and other organic salts, or may be modified to C₁-C₁₆ alkyl or dialkyl amino or further converted to an amide. Hydroxyl groups of the peptide sidechain may be converted to C₁-C₁₆ alkoxy or to a C₁-C₁₆ ester using well-recognized techniques. Phenyl and phenolic rings of the peptide sidechain may be substituted with one or more halogen atoms, such as fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine, or with C₁-C₁₆ alkyl, C₁-C₁₆ alkoxy, carboxylic acids and esters thereof, or amides of such carboxylic acids. Methylene groups of the peptide sidechains can be extended to homologous C₂-C₄ alkylanes. Thiols can be protected with any one of a

number of well-recognized protecting groups, such as acetamide groups. Those skilled in the art will also recognize methods for introducing cyclic structures into the peptides of this invention to select and provide conformational constraints to the structure that result in enhanced binding and/or stability. For example, a carboxyl-terminal or amino-terminal cysteine residue can be added to the peptide, so that when oxidized the peptide will contain a disulfide bond, thereby generating a cyclic peptide. Other peptide cyclizing methods include the formation of thioethers and carboxyl- and amino-terminal amides and esters.

Peptidomimetic and organomimetic embodiments are also hereby explicitly declared to be within the scope of the present invention, whereby the three-dimensional arrangement of the chemical constituents of such peptido- and organomimetics mimic the three-dimensional arrangement of the peptide backbone and component amino acid sidechains in the peptide, resulting in such peptido- and organomimetics of the peptides of this invention having substantial biological activity. It is implied that a pharmacophore exists for the receptor agonist and antagonist properties of these and related MC receptor binding analogues. A pharmacophore is an idealized, three-dimensional definition of the structural requirements for biological activity. Peptido- and organomimetics can be designed to fit each pharmacophore with current computer modeling software (computer aided drug design). MC receptor binding analogues derived using such software and comprising peptido- and organomimetics of SHU9119 and MTII and related analogues are within the scope of the claimed invention.

The MC receptor binding analogues, in particular those analogues that are MC-3 or MC-4 receptor agonists or antagonists are provided to be used in methods of influencing, modifying or changing feeding behavior in mammals *in vivo*. Specific examples of uses for the MC receptor binding analogues of the invention include but are not limited to treatment of eating disorders such as anorexia and obesity, and other pathological weight and eating-related disorders. Other examples are failure to thrive disorders and disease-related cachexia, such as occurs in cancer patients. Also within the scope of the analogues of the invention is use for enhancing appearance, athletic ability, or adjuvant to other therapies to treat disorders such as high blood pressure, high

serum cholesterol, vascular and heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, diabetes and other metabolic disorders.

The Examples which follow are illustrative of specific embodiments of the invention, and various uses thereof. They set forth for explanatory purposes only, and
5 are not to be taken as limiting the invention.

EXAMPLE 1

Isolation of an α MSH Receptor Probe by Random PCR Amplification of Human Melanoma cDNA Using 10 Degenerate Oligonucleotide Primers

In order to clone novel G-protein coupled receptors, cDNA prepared from RNA
from human melanoma cells was used as template for a polymerase chain reaction
(PCR)-based random cloning experiment. PCR was performed using a pair of
15 degenerate oligonucleotide primers corresponding to the putative third and sixth
transmembrane regions of G-protein coupled receptors (Libert *et al.*, 1989, *Science* 244:
569-72; Zhou *et al.*, 1990, *Nature* 347: 76-80). The PCR products obtained in this
experiment were characterized by nucleotide sequencing. Two novel sequences
representing novel G-protein-coupled receptors were identified.

20 PCR amplification was performed as follows. Total RNA was isolated from a
human melanoma tumor sample by the guanidinium thiocyanate method (Chirgwin *et*
al., 1979, *Biochemistry* 18: 5294-5299). Double-stranded cDNA was synthesized from
total RNA with murine reverse transcriptase (BRL, Gaithersburg, MD) by oligo-dT
priming (Sambrook *et al.*, *ibid.*). The melanoma cDNA mixture was then subjected to
25 45 cycles of PCR amplification using 500 picomoles of degenerate oligonucleotide
primers having the following sequence:

Primer III (sense):

GAGTCGACCTGTG(C/T)G(C/T)(C/G)AT(C/T)(A/G)CIIT(G/T)GAC(C/A)G(C/G)TAC
(SEQ ID NO:1)

30 and

Primer VI (antisense):

CAGAATTCAAG(T/A)AGGGCAICCAGCAGAI(G/C)(G/A)(T/C)GAA
(SEQ ID NO:2)

5

in 100 μ l of a solution containing 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.3), 2.5 mM MgCl₂, 0.01% gelatin, 200 μ M each dNTP, and 2.5 units of *Taq* polymerase (Saiki *et al.*, 1988, *Science* 239: 487-491). These primers were commercially synthesized by Research Genetics Inc. (Huntsville, AL). Each PCR amplification cycle consisted of incubations at 94°C for 1 min (denaturation), 45°C for 2 min (annealing), and 72°C for 2 min (extension).

10

Amplified products of the PCR reaction were extracted with phenol/chloroform and precipitated with ethanol. After digestion with EcoRI and *Sa*I, the PCR products were separated on a 1.2% agarose gel. A slice of this gel, corresponding to PCR products of 300 basepairs (bp) in size, was cut out and purified using glass beads and sodium iodide, and the insert was then cloned into a pBKS cloning vector (Stratagene, LaJolla, CA).

15 A total of 172 of such pBKS clones containing inserts were sequenced using Sequenase (U.S. Biochemical Corp., Cleveland, OH) by the dideoxynucleotide chain termination method (Sanger *et al.*, 1977, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 74: 5463-5467).

Two types of sequences homologous to other G-protein coupled receptors were identified.

EXAMPLE 2A

Isolation of a Mouse α MSH (MC-1) Receptor cDNA

20 Probes isolated in Example 1 was used to screen a Cloudman melanoma cDNA library in order to isolate a full-length cDNA corresponding to the cloned probe. One

clone was isolated from a library of 5×10^6 clones screened as described below in Example 2B. This clone contained an insert of 2.6 kilobases (kb). The nucleotide sequence of the complete coding region was determined (*see* co-owned U.S. Patent No. 5,532,347, incorporated by reference); a portion of this cDNA comprising the coding

region was sequenced and is shown in Figures 1A and 1B (SEQ ID Nos: 3 & 4).

EXAMPLE 2B

Isolation of a Human α MSH (MC-1) Receptor cDNA

In order to isolate a human counterpart of the murine melanocyte α MSH receptor gene disclosed in Example 2A and co-owned U.S. Patent No. 5,532,347, a

human genomic library was screened at high stringency (50% formamide, 42°C) using the human PCR fragments isolated as described in Example 1. A genomic clone was determined to encode an human MSH receptor (SEQ ID NO:5). The human MSH receptor has a predicted amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:6) that is 75% identical and 5 colinear with the mouse α MSH receptor cDNA sequence (Figures 2A and 2B, represented as human MSH-R). The predicted molecular weight of the human MSH^R is 34.7kD.

EXAMPLE 2C

10

Isolation of a Human ACTH (MC-2) Receptor cDNA

For cloning the ACTH receptor (MC-2), a human genomic library was screened at high stringency (50% formamide, 1M NaCl, 50nM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 0.1% sodium pyrophosphate, 0.2% sodium dodecyl sulfate, 100 μ g/ml salmon sperm DNA, 10X Denhardt's solution, 42°C), using the human PCR fragments isolated as 15 described in Example 1 herein and U.S. Patent No. 5,280,112, incorporated by reference. A genomic clone was isolated that encodes a highly related G-coupled receptor protein (SEQ ID NO:7 and Figures 3A and 3B). The predicted amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:8) of this clone is 39% identical and also colinear, excluding the third intracellular loop and carboxy-terminal tail, with the human MSH receptor gene product. The predicted molecular weight of this putative ACTH^R is 33.9 20 kilodaltons (kD). This clone was identified as encoding an MC-2 receptor based on its high degree of homology to the murine and human MSH receptors, and the pattern of expression in different tissue types, as described in Example 3 in U.S. Patent 5,280,112.

25

EXAMPLE 2D

Isolation of a Bovine ACTH (MC-2) Receptor cDNA

A bovine genomic DNA clone encoding the bovine counterpart of the MC-2 (ACTH) receptor was isolated from a bovine genomic library, essentially as described 30 in Example 2C above, and its nucleotide sequence determined (as shown in Figures 4A and 4B; SEQ ID Nos:9 & 10).

EXAMPLE 2E**Isolation of a Rat γ -MSH (MC-3) Receptor cDNA**

The mouse α MSH receptor cDNA isolated as described in Example 2A and co-owned U.S. Patent No. 5,532,347 was used to screen a rat hypothalamus cDNA library at low stringency (30% formamide, 5X SSC, 0.1% sodium pyrophosphate, 0.2% sodium dodecyl sulfate, 100 μ g/ml salmon sperm DNA, and 10% Denhardt's solution) at 42°C for 18h. A 1 kb cDNA clone was isolated and sequenced as described in co-owned U.S. Patent No. 5,532,347, and this clone used to re-screen the rat hypothalamus cDNA library at high stringency (same conditions as above except that formamide was present at 45%). A cDNA clone approximately 2.0 kb in length was isolated and analyzed as described in co-pending U.S. Application Serial No. 08/044,812, incorporated by reference; a portion of this cDNA comprising the coding region was sequenced and is shown in Figures 5A and 5B (SEQ ID Nos:11 & 12).

15

EXAMPLE 2F**Isolation of a Human MC-4 Receptor DNA**

For cloning the MC-4 receptor, a human genomic library was screened at moderate stringency (40% formamide, 1M NaCl, 50mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.5, 0.1% sodium pyrophosphate, 0.2% sodium dodecyl sulfate, 100 μ g/ml salmon sperm DNA, 10X Denhardt's solution, 42°C), using rat PCR fragments isolated as described in Example 1 herein, with the exception that the following primers were used for PCR:

20 Primer II (sense):

GAGTCGACC(A/G)CCCATGTA(C/T)T(AGT)(C/T)TTCATCTG
(SEQ ID NO:13)

25

and

Primer VII (antisense):

30 CAGAATTCGGAA(A/G)GC(A/G)TA(G/T)ATGA(A/G)GGGGTC
(SEQ ID NO:14)

A genomic clone was isolated that encodes a highly related G-coupled receptor protein (SEQ ID NO:15 and Figures 6A and 6B) on a 1.9kb *Hind*III fragment. The 35 predicted amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:16) of this clone is 55-61% sequence

identity with human MC-3 and MC-5 receptors, and 46-47% sequence identity with the human MC-1 and MC-2 (ACTH) receptor.

EXAMPLE 2G

Isolation of a Mouse MC-5 Receptor DNA

One million clones from a mouse 129SVJ genomic library comprising 5,000,000 clones in the λ FixII vector (Stratagene) was screened at low stringency (hybridization in 40% formamide at 42°C, washing performed in 0.5X SSC at 60°C, as described above in Example 2E) using radiolabeled probe from the rat MC-3 and MC-4 receptors (as described in Examples 2E and 2F). Positively-hybridizing clones were isolated and sequenced, and the sequences obtained were compared to previously-isolated melanocortin receptor clones. One clone, comprising a previously-unknown sequence, was determined to encode the MC-5 melanocortin receptor. The nucleotide and amino acid sequences of this receptor are shown in Figures 7A and 7B (SEQ ID No.: 17 & 18).

15

EXAMPLE 3

Construction of a Recombinant Expression Construct, DNA Transfection and Functional Expression of the MCR Gene Products

20 In order to produce recombinant mammalian cells expressing each of the melanocortin receptors of Example 2, cDNA from each receptor was cloned into a mammalian expression construct, the resulting recombinant expression construct transfected into human 293 cells, and cell lines generated that expressed the melanocortin receptor proteins in cellular membranes at the cell surface.

25 The mouse α MSH receptor was cloned by excising the entire coding region of the α MSH^R (MC-1) cDNA insert comprising a 2.1kb fragment and subcloning this fragment into the *Bam*HI/*Xho*I sites of pcDNAI/neo expression vector (Invitrogen, San Diego, CA). The resulting plasmid was prepared in large-scale through one cycle of CsCl gradient ultracentrifugation, and 20 μ g of the plasmid transfected into each 30 100mm dish of 293 cells using the calcium phosphate method (see Chen & Okayama, 1987, *J. 2745-2752*). After transfection, cells were cultured in DMEM media supplemented with 10% calf serum in a 3% CO₂ atmosphere at 37°C. Selection was

NDP-MSH > γ -MSH > α -MSH > ACTH₄₋₁₀ >>> ORG2766.

Approximate K_i values derived from this experiment are as shown in Table I:

TABLE I

5

10

Agonist	K _i (approx)
NDP-MSH	2 x 10 ⁻⁸
γ -MSH	5 x 10 ⁻⁸
α -MSH	1 x 10 ⁻⁷
ACTH ₄₋₁₀	8 x 10 ⁻⁵

15

20

cAMP production assays as described above were also used to analyze expression of MC3-R in cells transfected with the expression vectors described herein as follows. Cells ($\sim 5 \times 10^6$) were plated in 6-well dishes, washed once with DMEM containing 1% bovine serum albumin (BSA) and 0.5mM IBMX (a phosphodiesterase inhibitor), then incubated for 1h at 37°C with varying concentrations of the melanotropic peptides α MSH, γ MSH, γ MSH, the MSH peptide analogues Nle⁴-D-Phe⁷- α MSH (NDP-MSH), ACTH₄₋₁₀ and ACTH₁₋₃₉. Following hormone treatment, the cells were washed twice with phosphate buffered saline and intracellular cAMP extracted by lysing the cells with 1ml of 60% ethanol. Intracellular cAMP concentrations were determined using an assay which measures the ability of cAMP to displace [⁸-³H] cAMP from a high affinity cAMP binding protein (see Gilman, 1979, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 67: 305-312).

The results of these experiments are shown in Figures 11A through 11C. The abscissa indicates the concentration of each hormone and the ordinate indicates the percentage of basal intracellular cAMP concentration achieved by each treatment. Points indicate the mean of duplicate incubations; the standard error did not exceed 15% for any data point. Figure 11A depicts the results of experiments using peptides found *in vivo*; Figure 11B depicts results found with γ -MSH variants; and Figure 11C shows results of synthetic melanocortin analogues. None of the peptides tested induced any change in intracellular cAMP in cells containing the vector alone. Cells expressing rat MC3-R responded strongly to every melanotropic peptide containing the MSH sequence

His-Phe-Arg-Trp, with up to a 60-fold elevation of intracellular cAMP levels. EC₅₀ values ranged from 1-50 nM: The most potent ligand and the one having the lowest EC₅₀ was found to be γ MSH. The order of potency for the naturally occurring melanocortins was found to be:

5 γ_2 -MSH = γ MSH > α MSH = ACTH₁₋₃₉ > γ_3 -MSH > des-acetyl- α MSH > ACTH₄₋₁₀.
EC₅₀ values for these compounds are shown in Table II:

TABLE II.

Agonist	EC ₅₀
NDP-MSH	1 x 10 ⁻⁹
γ_1 -MSH	3 x 10 ⁻⁹
γ_2 -MSH	3 x 10 ⁻⁹
α -MSH	4 x 10 ⁻⁹
ACTH ₁₋₃₉	4 x 10 ⁻⁹
γ_3 -MSH	6 x 10 ⁻⁹
desacetyl- α MSH	8 x 10 ⁻⁹
ACTH ₄₋₁₀	1 x 10 ⁻⁷

20 Additionally, a synthetic melanocortin peptide (ORG2766), known to have the greatest activity *in vivo* in stimulation of retention of learned behavior and in stimulation of neural regeneration, was unable to stimulate MC3-R-mediated cAMP production, and was also inactive as an antagonist. The results strongly indicate that this peptide does not bind to MC3-R protein.

25 The MC-4 receptor was cloned in a 1.9kb *Hind*III genomic DNA fragment after PCR amplification of a lambda phage clone into pcDNA1/Neo (Invitrogen). This plasmid was stably introduced into human 293 cells by calcium-phosphate coprecipitation using standard techniques, and plasmid-containing cells selected in G418 containing media. Specificity of receptor-hormone binding was assayed using adenylate cyclase activity as described above. The MC-4 receptor was found to couple to adenylate cyclase activity having the following pattern of agonist affinity:

NDP-MSH > des-acetyl- α -MSH >/= ACTH₁₋₃₉ >/= α -MSH >> γ_2 -MSH = ACTH₄₋₁₀

whereas the synthetic ACTH₄₋₉ analogue ORG2766 showed no detectable binding to the MC-4 receptor. The results of adenylate cyclase activity assays are shown in Figure 12. EC₅₀ values for each of the tested MC-4 receptor agonists are as shown in Table III:

5

TABLE III

Agonist	EC ₅₀
NDP-MSH	1.1 x 10 ⁻¹¹ M
desacetyl- α MSH	4.9 x 10 ⁻¹⁰ M
ACTH ₁₋₃₉	6.8 x 10 ⁻¹⁰ M
α -MSH	1.5 x 10 ⁻⁹ M
γ_2 -MSH	> 10 ⁻⁷ M
ACTH ₄₋₁₀	> 10 ⁻⁷

10

A 1.6kb *Apal-HindIII* fragment comprising the entire coding sequence of the mouse MC-5 melanocortin receptor disclosed in Example 2G above was cloned into the pcDNA/neo expression vector (Invitrogen) after PCR amplification of the lambda phage clone. This plasmid was stably introduced into human 293 cells by calcium phosphate co-precipitation using standard techniques, and plasmid-containing cells selected in G418 containing media. Specificity of receptor-hormone binding was assayed using adenylate cyclase activity as described above. The MC-5 receptor was found to couple to adenylate cyclase activity having the following pattern of agonist affinity:



The results of adenylate cyclase activity assays are shown in Figure 13. EC₅₀ values for each of the tested MC-5 receptor agonists are: α -MSH = 1.7 x 10⁻⁹M; and β MSH = 5 x 10⁻⁹M.

25

EXAMPLE 4

Melanocortin Analogue Binding to Mammalian Melanocortin Receptors

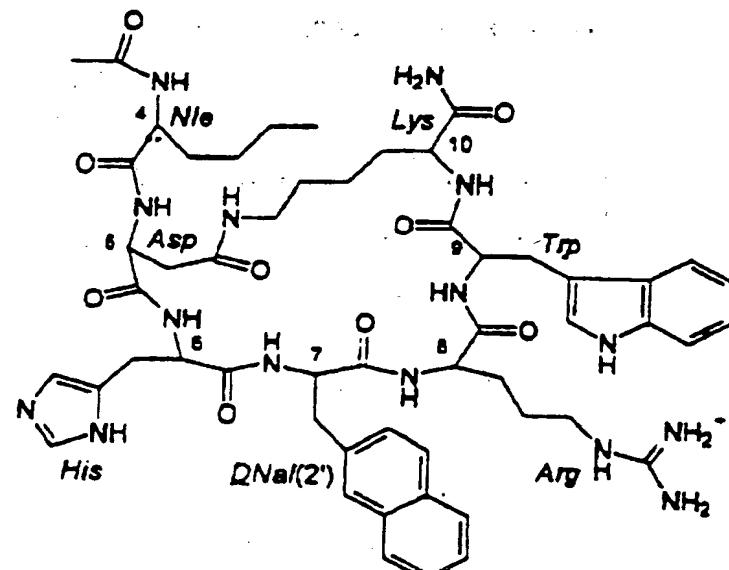
Recombinant cells prepared as described above in Example 3 were used to characterize receptor binding of two melanocortin analogues comprising cyclic lactam heptapeptides.

The melanocortin receptor analogue SHU9119 has the following chemical structure:

5

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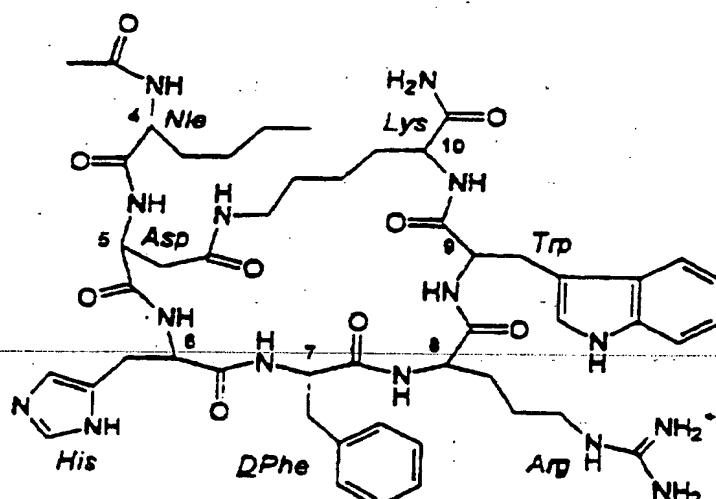
Ac-Nle⁴-cyclo(Asp⁵, D-Nal(2)⁷, Lys¹⁰) αMSH-(4-10)-amide

The melanocortin receptor analogue MTII has the following chemical structure:

20

25

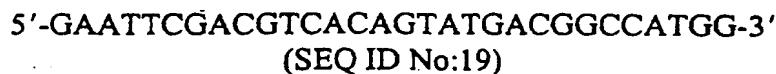
30



Ac-Nle⁴-cyclo(Asp⁵, His⁶, D-Phe⁷, Arg⁸, Trp⁹, Lys¹⁰) αMSH-(4-10)-amide

These analogues were prepared as described in Hruby *et al.* (1995, *J. Med. Chem.* **38**: 3454-3461).

These analogues were tested for melanocortin receptor binding using a colorimetric assay system developed by some of the instant inventors (Chen *et al.*, 1995, *Analyt. Biochem.* **226**: 349-354) as follows. A series of concatamers of the synthetic oligonucleotide:



was produced by self-annealing and ligation and a tandem tetramer obtained. This fragment was cloned upstream of a fragment of the human vasoactive intestinal peptide (-93-+152; SEQ ID No.: 13; *see* Fink *et al.*, 1988, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **85**: 6662-6666). This promoter was then cloned upstream of the β -galactosidase gene from *E. coli*. The resulting plasmid construct is shown in Figure 14.

Transient transfection of the pCRE/ β -gal plasmid described above was performed as follows. Cells grown to between 40-60% confluence (corresponding to about 1.5 million cells/6cm tissue culture plate) were incubated with Opti-MEM (GIBCO-BRL, Long Island, NY) and then contacted with a pCRE/ β -gal-lipofectin complex which was prepared as follows. 3 μ g plasmid DNA and 20 μ L lipofectin reagent (GIBCO) were each diluted into 0.5mL Opti-MEM media and then mixed together. This mixture was incubated at room temperature for 15-20 min., and then the mixture (1mL) added to each 6cm plate. Transfected plates were incubated at 37°C for 5-24h, after which the plates were washed and incubated with DMEM media (GIBCO) and the cells split equally into a 96-well culture plate.

To assay melanocortin receptor analogue binding, human 293 cells expressing each of the melanocortin receptors MC-1, MC-3, MC-4 and MC-5, and mouse Y1 cells expressing the MC-2 receptor, were transiently transfected with pCRE/ β -gal as described above and assayed as follows. Two days after transfection, cells were stimulated with hormones specific for each receptor or hormone analogue by incubation for 6h at 37°C with a mixture comprising 10⁻¹² - 10⁻⁶M) hormone or analogue, 0.1mg/mL bovine serum albumin and 0.1mM isobutylmethylxanthine in DMEM. The effect of hormone or analogue binding was determined by β -galactosidase assay according to the method of Felgner *et al.* (1994, *J. Biol. Chem.* **269**: 2550-2561). Briefly, media was aspirated from

culture wells and 50 μ L lysis buffer (0.25M Tris-HCl, pH 8/0.1% Triton-X100) added to each well. Cell lysis was enhanced by one round of freezing and thawing the cell/lysis buffer mixture. 10 μ L aliquots were sampled from each well for protein determination using a commercially-available assay (BioRad, Hercules, CA). The remaining 40 μ L from each well was diluted with 40 μ L phosphate buffered saline/0.5% BSA and 150 μ L substrate buffer (60mM sodium phosphate/ 1mM MgCl₂/ 10mM KCl/ 5mM β -mercaptoethanol/ 2mg/mL *o*-nitrophenyl- β -D-galactopyranoside) added. Plates were incubated at 37°C for 1h and then absorbance at 405nm determined using a 96-well plate reader (Molecular Devices, Sunnyvale, CA). A series of two-fold dilutions from 20ng of purified β -galactosidase protein (Sigma Chemical Co, St. Louis, MO) were assayed in parallel in each experiment to enable conversion of OD₄₀₅ to known quantity of β -galactosidase protein.

The results of these experiments are shown in Figure 15. This Figure shows the results of the β -galactosidase assay described above using cells expressing each of the MC-1, MC-3, MC-4 or MC-5 receptors and contacted with α MSH or a variety of α MSH analogues, including SHU9119. These results showed that SHU9119 had relatively weak agonist activity for both the human MC-3 and MC-4 receptors.

These results demonstrated the development of a colorimetric assay for cAMP accumulation as the result of melanocortin receptor binding to agonists and antagonists.

The action of MTII, SHU9119, and the endogenous mouse *agouti* peptide as agonists or antagonists of rodent MC receptors was first determined by examining their ability to elevate intracellular cAMP in 293 cell lines expressing the rat MC3-R or mouse MC4-R (expressed as IC₅₀ values representing ligand concentration required for half-maximal inhibition of binding of (¹I-125)-(Nle⁴, D-Phe) α -MSH tracer). Agonist/antagonist activity was also shown by demonstrating inhibition of cAMP elevation by the potent α -MSH analogue [Nle⁴, D-Phe⁷] α -MSH, using either a cAMP-responsive β -galactosidase reporter construct as described above, or by direct adenylyl cyclase assay as described in Example 3 (wherein EC₅₀ values represent ligand concentration required for half-maximal activation of a cAMP-responsive β -galactosidase reporter). Competition binding experiments were determined as the amount of radioactivity bound in the presence of 5x10⁻⁶M unlabeled [Nle⁴, D-Phe⁷] α -MSH, and was typically 3-5% of total counts bound.

In these experiments, murine *agouti* peptide was produced using a baculovirus system as described by Lu *et al.* (1994, *Nature* 371: 799-802), with the modification that the *agouti* peptide was purified from baculovirus supernatants by 0.6M NaCl step elution from an EconoS cation exchange column (BioRad). Agouti peptide used in these assays was approximately 60% pure.

Competition binding assays were performed to determine whether SHU9119 had antagonist activity towards α MSH binding to either the MC-3 or MC-4 receptors. These assays were performed as follows. Human 293 cells (100,000 cells/well in 24-well plates) expressing either the MC-3 or MC-4 receptors prepared as described above were incubated with a solution of 1mg/mL BSA in PBS containing 100,000cpm (3.1×10^{-10} M [125 I](Nle⁴, D-Phe⁷) α MSH and varying concentrations of α MSH, (Nle⁴, D-Phe⁷) α MSH or SHU9119. Cells were incubated for 30min at 37°C, washed twice with PBS-BSA, lysed with 0.5mL 0.5N NaOH, and counted using a γ -counter to quantitate the amount of bound [125 I](Nle⁴, D-Phe⁷) α MSH. Control experiments showed non-specific binding to occur at about 3-5% levels, and this was taken into account when analyzing the experimental results.

The SHU9119 analogue was found to be a potent antagonist of both the human MC-3 and MC-4 receptors, as shown in Figure 16. These assays showed pA₂ values of 8.3 and 9.3 for the human MC-3 and MC-4 receptors, respectively, as determined using the method of Schild (1947, *Brit. J. Pharmacol.* 2: 189-206). In contrast, no significant alteration in IC₅₀ values was detected in binding experiments using this analogue with either the MC-3 or MC-4 receptors (Figure 17).

The activity of the MTII analogue was also assayed for melanocortin receptor agonist activity. These results are shown in Figures 18A and 18B, and confirmed that the MTII analogue is a specific agonist of the MC-3 and MC-4 receptors.

Specific competition of [Nle⁴,D-Phe⁷] α -MSH binding to rat MC-3 receptor by *agouti* peptide was observed, although accurate IC₅₀ values could not be determined because the peptide preparation was not homogenous (results not shown). Specific competition of α -MSH activation of human MC4-R by *agouti* was previously disclosed (Lu *et al.*, 1994, *Nature* 371: 799-802).

EXAMPLE 5

Feeding Behavior Effect of Melanocortin Analogue Binding in Brain

The results shown in Example 4 above suggested a role in the regulation of feeding behavior in mammalian brain for MC receptor agonists and antagonists, in view of the antagonist properties of the *agouti* peptide at the MC-3 and MC-4 receptors. The *agouti* peptide was known to cause obesity when expressed ectopically in the mouse, and has been found to be a high affinity antagonist of the melanocyte stimulating hormone receptor (MC1-R) and of the hypothalamic MC-4 receptor (see Lu *et al.*, *ibid.*). The former activity explained the inhibitory effect of the *agouti* peptide on eumelanin pigment synthesis. Similarly, it was hypothesized by the inventors that *agouti* causes obesity in mice by antagonizing hypothalamic MC-4 receptors. The cyclic melanocortin analogue, SHU9119, having been shown herein and elsewhere (Hruby *et al.*) to be a specific, high affinity antagonist of the central MC-3 and MC-4 receptors, was tested for the effect of direct administration to mouse brain on feeding behavior in the animals. Intracerebroventricular (ICV) administration of SHU9119 was performed to avoid any complications caused by inhibition of peptide traverse of the blood-brain barrier.

Briefly, male C57B1/6J mice (18-29g) were maintained on a normal 12hr/12hr light dark cycle with food (Purina mouse chow) and water *ad libitum*. Animals were housed individually for 24 hrs, distributed into experimental and control groups, avoiding any bias as a function of prior weight, then injected with vehicle or vehicle plus drug just prior to the onset of a 12hr light or dark cycle. Fasted animals were deprived of food from 18:00 to 10:30 hrs to stimulate feeding during the daytime experimental period. Animals were lightly anesthetized with halothane, and administered into one lateral ventricle 2 μ L of a solution of artificial cerebrospinal fluid alone (acsf, comprising 130mM NaCl, 27mM NaHCO₃, 1.2mM Na₂HPQ, 0.3mM NaH PO₄, 0.5mM Na₂SO₄, 1.0mM CaCl₂, 1.0mM MgCl₂, and 2.5mM KCl), or 6nmol SHU9119 in acsf. Freehand injections were performed as described by Laursen and Belknap (1986, *J. Pharmacol. Methods* 16: 355-357) with some modifications. A 10 μ l luertip syringe (Hamilton 701LT) was fitted with a 0.5 inch 27 gauge needle. Stiff tygon tubing was slipped over the needle to expose 3mM of the needle tip. The syringe was held at a 45° angle from the front of the skull with the bevel facing up. The coronal suture was found by lightly rubbing the needle over the skull. Maintaining the 45° angle, the needle

was then inserted 1-2mm lateral to the midline, using only mild pressure to insert and remove the needle. The compounds indicated in a 2 μ l volume of acsf were administered slowly over approximately 15 seconds, and the needle removed after 35 seconds. Animals were allowed to recover from anesthesia and placed into a cage containing a premeasured quantity of food pellets in a spill-free cup. Moribund animals were not included in the study.

Stimulation of feeding by intracerebroventricular administration of the melanocortin antagonist SHU9119 is shown in Figures 19A through 19C. Curves show cumulative food intake as a function of time following administration of the substances shown. Figure 19A shows stimulation of feeding by administration of SHU9119 just prior to lights off (19:00 hrs) to C57B1/6J mice fed *ad libitum*. Figure 19B, in contrast, shows no effect of morning (10:00 hrs) SHU9119 administration in C57B1/6J mice fed *ad libitum*. Figure 19C illustrates stimulation of daytime feeding by SHU9119 administration in fasted C57B1/6J mice. In deriving the data points comprising these Figures, food remaining was briefly removed and weighed at the time intervals indicated. Data points indicate the mean and bars indicate standard error. Significance of the effect over time was determined by ANOVA with repeated measures. Significance of drug effects at individual time points was determined by two-way ANOVA, and is indicated in each Figure (***=P<0.001, **=P<0.01, *=P<0.05).

These results demonstrated that ICV administration of SHU9119 into one lateral ventricle of the C57B1/6J mouse just prior to lights out led to a mean 60% increase in food intake over 12 hrs (Figure 19A; P<0.005). In contrast, daytime food intake in animals fed *ad libitum* was not stimulated by administration of SHU9119 (Figure 19B). SHU9119-treatment did, however, significantly stimulate daytime food intake in animals fasted for 16 hrs prior to the experiment (Figure 19C; P<0.001). Stimulation of feeding was evident at approximately two hrs post-treatment, and continued for 12 hrs, to produce a mean 34% in food intake relative to vehicle-injected controls.

These results supported the hypothesis that *agouti* and/or SHU9119 stimulate feeding by antagonizing MC receptors in the central nervous system. To further test this hypothesis, a series of experiments were performed wherein MC receptor agonists were administered to animals primed by fasting to eat, to determine whether feeding in such animals could be inhibited by the MC receptor agonists. Animals were induced to feed

by food deprivation for 16h prior to ICV administration of the non-specific melanocortin agonist MTII. In these experiments, ICV injections in male C57B1/6J mice (20-30g) and the measurement of food intake were performed as described above.

5 Results of these experiments are shown in Figures 20A through 20C. In comparison to vehicle-injected animals, MTII was found to produce a potent inhibition of feeding within one hour after administration (Figure 20A) in a dose-responsive manner. Food intake was significantly inhibited for up to four hours following administration ($P<0.001$) at the highest dose administered (3nmol), and decreased food intake continued for the next four hours with normal rates of food intake resuming at 10 about 8 hours after treatment. This dose-responsive inhibition of feeding had an IC_{50} at the two hour time point of approximately 0.5nmol (Figure 20B). However, inhibition of feeding with 3nmol MTII was completely blocked by co-administration of 6nmol SHU9119 (Figure 20C; $P<0.001$), demonstrating that the effect results specifically from agonist binding to the MC-4 and/or MC-3 receptor.

15 Locomotor assays were performed to determine whether the effects on feeding behavior observed in these mice were secondary to generalized behavioral effects caused by administration of these melanocortin analogues. The effects of MTII on locomotor activity were tested by placing vehicle or MTII-treated mice in sound and light-proof cages containing multiple light beam detectors. These assays were performed by first 20 injecting 3nmol MTII or acsf as described above. At three hours (2:45-3:25) post-injection, 12 mice were placed into 12 separate boxes containing multiple infrared light sources and photodetectors. The boxes were contained within separate ventilated light and sound attenuating chambers (Coulbourn model E10-20). Disruption of the infrared beams, with a 10msec resolution, was tallied independently for each one minute time 25 period in each cage. The results of these assays are shown in Figure 20D. Data points indicate the mean total activity (# of light breaks) for 6 animals in each experimental group. Four way ANOVA statistical analysis was used to analyze the data, and indicated an absence of a significant difference among the two groups.

30 Inhibition of feeding by MTII could not be explained by any apparent behavioral abnormalities, or any effect on arousal or locomotor activity. MTII-treated animals appeared alert and exhibited no unusual behavior relative to controls. At approximately three hours after ICV administration, MTII-treated animals exhibited locomotor activity

that was indistinguishable from vehicle-treated animals (Figure 20D). The higher initial activity, indicative of exploratory behavior, and continued locomotion over a 15 min period was indistinguishable between the two groups, indicating that the inhibition of feeding was not due to decreased locomotion or decreased arousal.

5 The administration of MTII also inhibited food intake in three other models of hyperphagia: the C57B1/6J-*Lep*^{ob} mouse, a neuropeptide Y (NPY)-injected C57B1/6J mouse and a C57B1/6J-*A*^y mouse. Figure 21A shows inhibition of feeding by intracerebroventricular administration of MTII in *A*^y mice (females, 19-28gms). Figure 21B shows inhibition of feeding by intracerebroventricular administration of MTII in C57B1/6J mice (females, 21-25gm) stimulated to feed by co-administration of NPY. Figure 21C shows inhibition of feeding by intracerebroventricular administration of the MTII in *ob/ob* mice (females, 48-69 gms). Figure 21D shows inhibition of feeding in *ob/ob* mice by intraperitoneal administration of MTII (females, 40-45 gms). ICV injections and measurement of food intake were performed as described above, with the exception of NPY treated animals, which were not fasted prior to experimentation. Animals treated intraperitoneally received 100µl of a 1mM solution of MTII in saline, and vehicle injections consisted of the same amount of saline alone. Significance indicated for individual time points, determined as described above, was for 3nmol MTII vs. acsf (Figure 21A), 1.18 nmol NPY vs. 1.18 nmol NPY + 3 nmol MTII (Figure 21B), 3nmol MTII vs. acsf (Figure 21C), and 100 nmol MTII vs. saline (Figure 21D).

10 The hyperphagia in these models can be clearly seen by comparing the 12 hr food intake following a fast in vehicle-injected C57B1/6J (2.4g, Figure 19A), C57B1/6J-*A*^y (3.7g, Figure 21A) and C57B1/6J-*Lep*^{ob} (3.7g, Figure 21C) animals. As expected, MTII treatment inhibited food intake following a 16 hr fast in the C57B1/6J-*A*^y mouse (Figure 21A; P<0.05). Interestingly, while food intake for the first four hours is significantly inhibited relative to vehicle-injected animals, it is also significantly less inhibited in the C57B1/6J-*A*^y animal than in the C57B1/6J animal given the same 3nmol dose (*compare*, Figure 20A *versus* Figure 21A, 1-4 hrs; P<0.001). The decreased effectiveness of the agonist in the presence of the *A*^y allele is consistent with the proposal that this allele results in chronic expression of *agouti* peptide melanocortin antagonist in the brain.

15 MTII, upon co-administration, also significantly inhibited the profound stimulation of feeding induced by NPY, measured over a three hr period (Figure 21C;

P<0.005). Co-administration of an approximately two-fold molar excess of MTII produced a 74% inhibition of NPY-stimulated food intake at the three hour time point.

Finally, MTII also inhibited hyperphagia due to absence of leptin in the C57B1/6J-*Lep^{ob}* mouse (Figure 21C; P<0.001). MTII potently blocked feeding (Figure 5 20A) in these animals, in contrast to the less potent inhibition described above for the C57B1/6J-*A^r* mouse.

The C57B1/6J-*Lep^{ob}* animal was also used to test the ability of MTII to regulate feeding when administered peripherally. Moderate doses (100nmol) of MTII inhibited feeding in the C57B1/6J-*Lep^{ob}* mouse (P<0.001) while low doses (10nmol) did not (data 10 not shown). The kinetics were similar to those seen with ICV administration, with a potent inhibition of feeding for the first four hours. The 100-fold higher dose required peripherally, as well as the similar kinetics, suggest a primarily central nervous system-based mechanism of action of MTII.

These data show that melanocortinergic neurons exert a tonic inhibition of 15 feeding behavior, and that disruption of this signal leads to hyperphagia. With regard to the recently-discovered leptin hormone made by adipocytes, which is generally expressed at elevated levels in obese humans and rodents (such as the C57B1/6J-*Lep^{ob}* animal), the regulatory defect is understood to be an incapacity to respond properly to the leptin hormone signal. The instant results indicate that the melanocortins act 20 independently, and physiologically "downstream," from the leptin hormone/receptor interaction, because it has been shown herein that melanocortin receptor agonists can potently inhibit feeding in the C57B1/6J-*Lep^{ob}* animal.

These results suggest that MC receptor agonists and antagonists can affect 25 mammalian feeding behavior, and provide a means for determining candidate compounds for the development of effective pharmacological products directed towards alleviating such human ailments as obesity, anorexia and cachexia.

EXAMPLE 6

Use of MC Receptor-Expressing Recombinant Cells for Screening Compounds that Affect Feeding Behavior in Mammals

The results obtained in Example 5 indicated that cells expressing a variety of 30 mammalian melanocortin receptors are useful for characterizing compounds as a first

step towards developing MC receptor agonists and antagonists for controlling feeding behavior in mammals, particularly obesity and overweight disorders in general, as well as anorexia, cachexia and other failure-to-thrive disorders.

A panel of mammalian melanocortin receptor-expressing recombinant cells are provided as described above in Example 3, wherein each member of the panel comprises appropriate mammalian cells, such as human 293 cells, comprising a recombinant expression construct encoding the MC-1, MC-2 (ACTH), MC-3, MC-4 or MC-5 receptor, the panel constructed to comprise cells functionally expressing each of these MC receptor proteins.

The panel is used as follows. Receptor agonist activity is assayed by transient or stable expression of a protein which produces a metabolite reporter molecule in response to receptor binding by any of the MC receptor proteins. An example of such a reporter system is the recombinant expression construct described in Example 4, wherein cAMP responsive elements (CREs) are operatively linked to a bacterially-derived β -galactosidase (β -gal) gene. In the event of receptor binding, cAMP is produced in the mammalian cell, and the CRE induces β -gal expression. When co-incubated with a colorless substrate for β -gal, receptor binding results in conversion of the colorless substrate to a blue-colored product, which can be easily scored visually or spectrophotometrically. Alternative reporter genes, such as luciferase, can also be used as reporter systems, provided that expression of the reporter molecule-producing protein is functionally linked to receptor binding of a test compound. Alternatively, cAMP production resulting from MC receptor binding can also be measured directly.

Assay panels are arranged so that agonist activity can be identified, quantitated and correlated with expression of each MC receptor. Automated assays using such panels are also envisioned, whereby the qualitative and quantitative detection of a reporter metabolite is detected in an array (such as a 96-well tissue culture plate) and the data collected and assembled into a computer data-base or other analytical program.

Antagonist activity is detected by a modification of the above assay. In this assay, the inhibition of cAMP production by a standardized amount of a known receptor agonist, specific for each receptor, is assayed in the presence of a putative antagonist compound. Production of metabolite reporter molecules and their qualitative and quantitative detection is achieved as described above, and the specificity and potency of

each antagonist compound characterized with regard to the degree of inhibition achieved for each receptor.

In view of the instant disclosure, MC-3/MC-4 receptor antagonists are expected to be useful to inhibit food intake in a hungry animal, and MC-3/MC-4 receptor agonists are expected to be useful to increase food intake in an animal. Alternative patterns of feeding behavior associated with different patterns of MC receptor agonist/antagonist activity can be determined using this assay.

Compounds having agonist or antagonist activity with the MC-3 or MC-4 receptors detected using this assay are further screened *in vivo* to determine whether the observed receptor binding activity results in modification of feeding behavior when administered to an animal. In these assays, the MC receptor binding compounds detected using the assay are administered intracranioventricularly as described above in Example 5 to animals after an overnight fast, to waking animals, or to animals that are not otherwise primed to be hungry. Feeding and locomotor activity is monitored in these animals, and compounds affecting eating behavior (either by inhibiting feeding in otherwise hungry animals or stimulating feeding in otherwise sated animals) are selected for further development.

In addition, systemic administration of compounds found to be active by ICV administration assays is used to screen such compounds for the ability to cross the blood-brain barrier. Such compounds are also useful as templates for modifications aimed at increasing the availability of these compounds in the brain after systemic administration, for increasing bioactivity, or both.

It should be understood that the foregoing disclosure emphasizes certain specific embodiments of the invention and that all modifications or alternatives equivalent thereto are within the spirit and scope of the invention as set forth in the appended claims.

SEQUENCE LISTING

(1) GENERAL INFORMATION:

(i) APPLICANT:

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- (G) TELEPHONE: 503-494-8200
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(ii) TITLE OF INVENTION: Methods and Reagents for Discovering and
Using Mammalian Melanocortin Receptor Agonists and Antagonists
To Modulate Feeding Behavior in Animals

(iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 19

(iv) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:

- (A) MEDIUM TYPE: Floppy disk
- (B) COMPUTER: IBM PC compatible
- (C) OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS/MS-DOS
- (D) SOFTWARE: PatentIn Release #1.0, Version #1.25

(v) CURRENT APPLICATION DATA:

- (A) APPLICATION NUMBER:

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:1:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 35 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)

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- (A) NAME/KEY: mics_feature
- (B) LOCATION: 1..35
- (D) OTHER INFORMATION: /function = "Degenerate
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/note= "The residue at positions 24 and 24 are
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(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:2:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 32 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: mics_feature
- (B) LOCATION: 1..32
- (D) OTHER INFORMATION: /function = "Degenerate oligonucleotide primer (antisense)"
/note= "The residue at position 18 is inosine"

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:2:

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32

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:3:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 1260 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA to mRNA

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: 5'UTR
- (B) LOCATION: 1..14

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: CDS
- (B) LOCATION: 15..959

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- (A) NAME/KEY: 3'UTR
- (B) LOCATION: 960..1260

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15 20 25	
TCA GAG CCT TGG TGC CTG TAT GTG TCC ATC CCA GAT GGC CTC TTC CTC Ser Glu Pro Trp Cys Leu Tyr Val Ser Ile Pro Asp Gly Leu Phe Leu	146
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AGC CTA GGG CTG GTG AGT CTG GTG GAG AAT GTG CTG GTT GTG ATA GCC Ser Leu Gly Leu Val Ser Leu Val Glu Asn Val Leu Val Val Ile Ala	194
45 50 55 60	
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(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:4:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 315 amino acids
 - (B) TYPE: amino acid
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:4:

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Cys Leu Tyr Val Ser Ile Pro Asp Gly Leu Phe Leu Ser Leu Gly Leu
35 40 45

Val Ser Leu Val Glu Asn Val Leu Val Val Ile Ala Ile Thr Lys Asn
50 55 60

Arg Asn Leu His Ser Pro Met Tyr Tyr Phe Ile Cys Cys Leu Ala Leu
65 70 75 80

Ser Asp Leu Met Val Ser Val Ser Ile Val Leu Glu Thr Thr Ile Ile
85 90 95

Leu Leu Leu Glu Val Gly Ile Leu Val Ala Arg Val Ala Leu Val Gln
100 105 110

Gln Leu Asp Asn Leu Ile Asp Val Leu Ile Cys Gly Ser Met Val Ser
115 120 125

Ser Leu Cys Phe Leu Gly Ile Ile Ala Ile Asp Arg Tyr Ile Ser Ile
130 135 140

Phe Tyr Ala Leu Arg Tyr His Ser Ile Val Thr Leu Pro Arg Ala Arg
145 150 155 160

Arg Ala Val Val Gly Ile Trp Met Val Ser Ile Val Ser Ser Thr Leu
165 170 175

Phe Ile Thr Tyr Tyr Lys His Thr Ala Val Leu Leu Cys Leu Val Thr
180 185 190

Phe Phe Leu Ala Met Leu Ala Leu Met Ala Ile Leu Tyr Ala His Met
195 200 205

Phe Thr Arg Ala Cys Gln His Val Gln Gly Ile Ala Gln Leu His Lys
210 215 220

Arg Arg Arg Ser Ile Arg Gln Gly Phe Cys Leu Lys Gly Ala Ala Thr
225 230 235 240

Leu Thr Ile Leu Leu Gly Ile Phe Phe Leu Cys Trp Gly Pro Phe Phe
245 250 255

Leu His Leu Leu Ile Val Leu Cys Pro Gln His Pro Thr Cys Ser
 260 265 270

Cys Ile Phe Lys Asn Phe Asn Leu Phe Leu Leu Ile Val Leu Ser
 275 280 285

Ser Thr Val Asp Pro Leu Ile Tyr Ala Phe Arg Ser Gln Glu Leu Arg
 290 295 300

Met Thr Leu Lys Glu Val Leu Leu Cys Ser Trp
 305 310 315

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:5:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 1633 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA to mRNA

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: 5'UTR
- (B) LOCATION: 1..461

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: CDS
- (B) LOCATION: 462..1415

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: 3'UTR
- (B) LOCATION: 1416..1633

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:5:

CCCGCATGTG GCCGCCCTCA ATGGAGGGCT CTGAGAACGA CTTTAAAC GCAGAGAAAA	60
AGCTCCATTC TTCCAGACC TCAGCGCAGC CCTGGCCCAG GAAGGGAGGA GACAGAGGCC	120
AGGACGGTCC AGAGGTGTCG AAATGTCCTG GGAACCTGAG CAGCAGCCAC CAGGGAAGAG	180
GCAGGGAGGG AGCTGAGGAC CAGGCTTGGT TGTGAGAAC CCTGAGCCCA GGCGGTTGAT	240
GCCAGGGAGGT GTCTGGACTG GCTGGGCCAT GCCTGGGCTG ACCTGTCCAG CCAGGGAGAG	300

GGTGTGAGGG CAGATCTGGG GGTGCCAGA TGGAAGGAGG CAGGCATGGG GACACCCAAG	360
GCCCCCTGGC AGCACCATGA ACTAACAGCAGG ACACCTGGAG GGGAAAGAACT GTGGGGACCT	420
GGAGGCCTCC AACGACTCCT TCCTGCTTCC TGGACAGGAC T ATG GCT GTG CAG Met Ala Val Gln	473
1	
GGA TCC CAG AGA AGA CTT CTG GGC TCC CTC AAC TCC ACC CCC ACA GCC	521
Gly Ser Gln Arg Arg Leu Leu Gly Ser Leu Asn Ser Thr Pro Thr Ala	
5 10 15 20	
ATC CCC CAG CTG GGG CTG GCT GCC AAC CAG ACA GGA GCC CGG TGC CTG	569
Ile Pro Gln Leu Gly Leu Ala Ala Asn Gln Thr Gly Ala Arg Cys Leu	
25 30 35	
GAG GTG TCC ATC TCT GAC GGG CTC TTC CTC AGC CTG GGG CTG GTG AGC	617
Glu Val Ser Ile Ser Asp Gly Leu Phe Leu Ser Leu Gly Leu Val Ser	
40 45 50	
TTG GTG GAG AAC GCG CTG GTG GTG GCC ACC ATC GCC AAG AAC CGG AAC	665
Leu Val Glu Asn Ala Leu Val Val Ala Thr Ile Ala Lys Asn Arg Asn	
55 60 65	
CTG CAC TCA CCC ATG TAC TGC TTC ATC TGC TGC CTG GCC TTG TCG GAC	713
Leu His Ser Pro Met Tyr Cys Phe Ile Cys Cys Leu Ala Leu Ser Asp	
70 75 80	
CTG CTG GTG AGC GGG ACG AAC GTG CTG GAG ACG GCC GTC ATC CTC CTG	761
Leu Leu Val Ser Gly Thr Asn Val Leu Glu Thr Ala Val Ile Leu Leu	
85 90 95 100	
CTG GAG GCC GGT GCA CTG GTG GCC CGG GCT GCG GTG CTG CAG CAG CTG	809
Leu Glu Ala Gly Ala Leu Val Ala Arg Ala Ala Val Leu Gln Gln Leu	
105 110 115	
GAC AAT GTC ATT GAC GTG ATC ACC TGC AGC TCC ATG CTG TCC AGC CTC	857
Asp Asn Val Ile Asp Val Ile Thr Cys Ser Ser Met Leu Ser Ser Leu	
120 125 130	
TGC TTC CTG GGC GCC ATC GCC GTG GAC CGC TAC ATC TCC ATC TTC TAC	905
Cys Phe Leu Gly Ala Ile Ala Val Asp Arg Tyr Ile Ser Ile Phe Tyr	
135 140 145	
GCA CTG CGC TAC CAC AGC ATC GTG ACC CTG CCG CGG GCG CCG CGA GCC	953
Ala Leu Arg Tyr His Ser Ile Val Thr Leu Pro Arg Ala Pro Arg Ala	
150 155 160	
GTT GCG GCC ATC TGG GTG GCC AGT GTC GTC TTC AGC ACG CTC TTC ATC	1001
Val Ala Ala Ile Trp Val Ala Ser Val Val Phe Ser Thr Leu Phe Ile	
165 170 175 180	

GGC TAC TAC GAC CAC GTG GCC GTC CTG CTG TGC CTC GTG GTC TTC TTC Gly Tyr Tyr Asp His Val Ala Val Leu Leu Cys Leu Val Val Phe Phe 185 190 195	1049
CTG GCT ATG CTG GTG CTC ATG GCC GTG CTG GAC GTC CAC ATG CTG GCC Leu Ala Met Leu Val Leu Met Ala Val Leu Asp Val His Met Leu Ala 200 205 210	1097
CGG GCC TGC CAG CAC GCC CAG GGC ATC GCC CGG CTC CAC AAG AGG CAG Arg Ala Cys Gln His Ala Gln Gly Ile Ala Arg Leu His Lys Arg Gln 215 220 225	1145
CGC CCG GTC CAC CAG GGC TTT GGC CTT AAA GGC GCT GTC ACC CTC ACC Arg Pro Val His Gln Gly Phe Gly Leu Lys Gly Ala Val Thr Leu Thr 230 235 240	1193
ATC CTG CTG GGC ATT TTC TTC CTC TGC TGG GGC CCC TTC TTC CTG CAT Ile Leu Leu Gly Ile Phe Phe Leu Cys Trp Gly Pro Phe Phe Leu His 245 250 255 260	1241
CTC ACA CTC ATC GTC CTC TGC CCC GAG CAC CCC ACG TGC GGC TGC ATC Leu Thr Leu Ile Val Leu Cys Pro Glu His Pro Thr Cys Gly Cys Ile 265 270 275	1289
TTC AAG AAC TTC AAC CTC TTT CTC GCC CTC ATC ATC TGC AAT GCC ATC Phe Lys Asn Phe Asn Leu Phe Leu Ala Leu Ile Ile Cys Asn Ala Ile 280 285 290	1337
ATC GAC CCC CTC ATC TAC GCC TTC CAC AGC CAG GAG CTC CGC AGG ACG Ile Asp Pro Leu Ile Tyr Ala Phe His Ser Gln Glu Leu Arg Arg Thr 295 300 305	1385
CTC AAG GAG GTG CTG ACA TGC TCC TGG TGA GCGCGGTGCA CGCGCTTTAA Leu Lys Glu Val Leu Thr Cys Ser Trp * 310 315	1435
GTTTGCTGGG CAGAGGGAGG TGGTGATATT GTGGTCTGGT TCCTGTGTGA CCCTGGCAG	1495
TTCCCTTACCT CCCTGGTCCC CGTTTGTCAA AGAGGATGGA CTAAATGATC TCTGAAAGTG	1555
TTGAAGCGCG GACCCTTCTG GGCAGGGAGG GGTCCCTGCAA AACTCCAGGC AGGACTTCTC	1615
ACCAGCAGTC GTGGGAAC	1633

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:6:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 317 amino acids
- (B) TYPE: amino acid
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:6:

Met Ala Val Gln Gly Ser Gln Arg Arg Leu	Leu Gly Ser Leu Asn Ser		
1	5	10	15

Thr Pro Thr Ala Ile Pro Gln Leu Gly Leu Ala Ala Asn Gln Thr Gly		
20	25	30

Ala Arg Cys Leu Glu Val Ser Ile Ser Asp Gly Leu Phe Leu Ser Leu		
35	40	45

Gly Leu Val Ser Leu Val Glu Asn Ala Leu Val Val Ala Thr Ile Ala		
50	55	60

Lys Asn Arg Asn Leu His Ser Pro Met Tyr Cys Phe Ile Cys Cys Leu			
65	70	75	80

Ala Leu Ser Asp Leu Leu Val Ser Gly Thr Asn Val Leu Glu Thr Ala		
85	90	95

Val Ile Leu Leu Leu Glu Ala Gly Ala Leu Val Ala Arg Ala Ala Val		
100	105	110

Leu Gln Gln Leu Asp Asn Val Ile Asp Val Ile Thr Cys Ser Ser Met		
115	120	125

Leu Ser Ser Leu Cys Phe Leu Gly Ala Ile Ala Val Asp Arg Tyr Ile		
130	135	140

Ser Ile Phe Tyr Ala Leu Arg Tyr His Ser Ile Val Thr Leu Pro Arg			
145	150	155	160

Ala Pro Arg Ala Val Ala Ala Ile Trp Val Ala Ser Val Val Phe Ser		
165	170	175

Thr Leu Phe Ile Gly Tyr Tyr Asp His Val Ala Val Leu Leu Cys Leu		
180	185	190

Val Val Phe Phe Leu Ala Met Leu Val Leu Met Ala Val Leu Asp Val		
195	200	205

His Met Leu Ala Arg Ala Cys Gln His Ala Gln Gly Ile Ala Arg Leu		
210	215	220

His Lys Arg Gln Arg Pro Val His Gln Gly Phe Gly Leu Lys Gly Ala			
225	230	235	240

Val Thr Leu Thr Ile Leu Leu Gly Ile Phe Phe Leu Cys Trp Gly Pro		
245	250	255

Phe Phe Leu His Leu Thr Leu Ile Val Leu Cys Pro Glu His Pro Thr
 260 265 270

Cys Gly Cys Ile Phe Lys Asn Phe Asn Leu Phe Leu Ala Leu Ile Ile
 275 280 285

Cys Asn Ala Ile Ile Asp Pro Leu Ile Tyr Ala Phe His Ser Gln Glu
 290 295 300

Leu Arg Arg Thr Leu Lys Glu Val Leu Thr Cys Ser Trp *
 305 310 315

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:7:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 2012 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA to mRNA

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: 5'UTR
- (B) LOCATION: 1..693

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: CDS
- (B) LOCATION: 694..1587

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: 3'UTR
- (B) LOCATION: 1588..2012

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:7:

ACAAACACTTT ATATATATTT TTATAAATGT AAGGGGTACA AAGGTGCCAT TTTGTTACAT	60
GGATATAACCG TGTAGTGGTG AAGCCTGGGC TTTTAGTGT A TCTGTCATCA GAATAACATA	120
CGTGTACCC ATAGGAATT CTCATCACCC GCCCCCTCCA CCCTTCGAGT CTCCAATGTC	180
CATTCCACAC TCTATATCCA CGTGTATGCA TATAGCTCCA CATATAAGTG AGAACATGTA	240
GTATTTGACT TCCTCTTCT GAGTTATTTC ACTTTGATAA TGGCCTCCAC TTCCATCCAT	300
GTTGCTGCAA AAGACATGAC CTTATTCTTT TTGATAGCTG GGGAGTACTC CATTGTGTAT	360
ATGTACCACA TTTCTTTATC CATTCACCCCA TTGAGAACAC TTAGTTGATT CCATATCTTT	420

GCTATTGTCA CTAGTGCTGC AATAAACATA CATGTGCAGG CTCCTTCTAA TATACTGATT	480
TATATTTTAT GGAGAGAGAT AGAGTTCTTA GCGAGTGTGC TGTTTATTTC TAGTGTACTT	540
GCAACTAATA TTCTGTATAC TCCCTTTAGG TGATTGGAGA TTTAACTTAG ATCTCCAGCA	600
AGTGCTACAA GAAGAAAAGA TCCTGAAGAA TCAATCAAGT TTCCGTGAAG TCAAGTCCAA	660
GTAACATCCC CGCCTTAACC ACAAGCAGGA GAA ATG AAG CAC ATT ATC AAC TCG Met Lys His Ile Ile Asn Ser	714
1 5	
TAT GAA AAC ATC AAC AAC ACA GCA AGA AAT AAT TCC GAC TGT CCT CGT Tyr Glu Asn Ile Asn Asn Thr Ala Arg Asn Asn Ser Asp Cys Pro Arg	762
10 15 20	
TGT GTT TTG CCG GAG GAG ATA TTT TTC ACA ATT TCC ATT GTT GGA GTT Cys Val Leu Pro Glu Glu Ile Phe Phe Thr Ile Ser Ile Val Gly Val	810
25 30 35	
TTG GAG AAT CTG ATC GTC CTG CTG GCT GTG TTC AAG AAT AAG AAT CTC Leu Glu Asn Leu Ile Val Leu Leu Ala Val Phe Lys Asn Lys Asn Leu	858
40 45 50 55	
CAG GCA CCC ATG TAC TTT TTC ATC TGT AGC TTG GCC ATA TCT GAT ATG Gln Ala Pro Met Tyr Phe Ile Cys Ser Leu Ala Ile Ser Asp Met	906
60 65 70	
CTG GGC AGC CTA TAT AAG ATC TTG GAA AAT ATC CTG ATC ATA TTG AGA Leu Gly Ser Leu Tyr Lys Ile Leu Glu Asn Ile Leu Ile Leu Arg	954
75 80 85	
AAC ATG GGC ATA CTC AAG CCA CGT GGC AGT TTT GAA ACC ACA GCC CAT Asn Met Gly Ile Leu Lys Pro Arg Gly Ser Phe Glu Thr Thr Ala His	1002
90 95 100	
GAC ATC ATC GAC TCC CTG TTT CTG CTC TCC CGT CTT GGC TCC ATC TTC Asp Ile Ile Asp Ser Leu Phe Leu Leu Ser Arg Leu Gly Ser Ile Phe	1050
105 110 115	
GAC CTG CTC GTG ATT GCT GCG GAC CGC TAC ATC ACC ATC TTC CAC GCA Asp Leu Leu Val Ile Ala Ala Asp Arg Tyr Ile Thr Ile Phe His Ala	1098
120 125 130 135	
CTG CGG TAC CAC AGC ATC GTG ACC ATG CGC CGC ACT GTG GTG GTG CTT Leu Arg Tyr His Ser Ile Val Thr Met Arg Arg Thr Val Val Val Leu	1146
140 145 150	
ACG GTC ATC TGG ACG TTC TGC ACG GGG ACT GGC ATC ACC ATG GTG ATC Thr Val Ile Trp Thr Phe Cys Thr Gly Thr Gly Ile Thr Met Val Ile	1194
155 160 165	

TTC TCC CAT CAT GTG CCC CAC GTG ATC ACC TTC ACG TCG CTG TTC CCG Phe Ser His His Val Pro His Val Ile Thr Phe Thr Ser Leu Phe Pro 170 175 180	1242
CTG ATG CTG GTC TTC ATC CTG TGC CTC TAT GTG CAC ATG TTC CTG CTG Leu Met Leu Val Phe Ile Leu Cys Leu Tyr Val His Met Phe Leu Leu 185 190 195	1290
GCT CGA TGG CAC ACC AGG AAG ATC TCC ACC CTC CCC AGA GCC AAC ATG Ala Arg Trp His Thr Arg Lys Ile Ser Thr Leu Pro Arg Ala Asn Met 200 205 210 215	1338
AAA GGG GCC ATG ACA CTG ACC ATC CTG CTC GGG GTC TTC ATC TTC TGC Lys Gly Ala Met Thr Leu Thr Ile Leu Leu Gly Val Phe Ile Phe Cys 220 225 230	1386
TGG GCC CCC TTT GTG CTT CAT GTC CTC TTG ATG ACA TTC TGC CCA AGT Trp Ala Pro Phe Val Leu His Val Leu Leu Met Thr Phe Cys Pro Ser 235 240 245	1434
AAC CCC TAC TGC GCC TGC TAC ATG TCT CTC TTC CAG GTG AAC GGC ATG Asn Pro Tyr Cys Ala Cys Tyr Met Ser Leu Phe Gln Val Asn Gly Met 250 255 260	1482
TTG ATC ATG TGC AAT GCC GTC ATT GAC CCC TTC ATA TAT GCC TTC CGG Leu Ile Met Cys Asn Ala Val Ile Asp Pro Phe Ile Tyr Ala Phe Arg 265 270 275	1530
AGC CCA GAG CTC AGG GAC GCA TTC AAA AAG ATG ATC TTC TGC AGC AGG Ser Pro Glu Leu Arg Asp Ala Phe Lys Lys Met Ile Phe Cys Ser Arg 280 285 290 295	1578
TAC TGG TAG AATGGCTGAT CCCTGGTTTT AGAATCCATG GGAATAACGT Tyr Trp *	1627
TGCCAAGTGC CAGAAATAGTG TAACATTCCA ACAAAATGCCA GTGCTCCTCA CTGGCCTTCC	1687
TTCCCTAACATG GATGCAAGGA TGACCCACCA GCTAGTGTGTT CTGAATACTA TGGCCAGGAA	1747
CAGTCTATTG TAGGGGCAAC TCTATTGTG ACTGGACAGA TAAAACGTGT AGTAAAAGAA	1807
GGATAGAATA CAAAGTATTAA GGTACAAAAG TAATTAGGTT TGCATTACTT ATGACAAATG	1867
CATTACTTT GCACCAATCT AGTAAAACAG CAATAAAAAT TCAAGGGCTT TGGGCTAAGG	1927
CAAAGACTTG CTTTCCTGTG GACATTAACA AGCCAGTTCT GAGGCGGCCT TTCCAGGTGG	1987
AGGCCATTGC AGCCAATTTC AGAGT	2012

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:8:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 297 amino acids
- (B) TYPE: amino acid
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:8:

Met Lys His Ile Ile Asn Ser Tyr Glu Asn Ile Asn Asn Thr Ala Arg
1 5 10 15

Asn Asn Ser Asp Cys Pro Arg Cys Val Leu Pro Glu Glu Ile Phe Phe
20 25 30

Thr Ile Ser Ile Val Gly Val Leu Glu Asn Leu Ile Val Leu Leu Ala
35 40 45

Val Phe Lys Asn Lys Asn Leu Gln Ala Pro Met Tyr Phe Phe Ile Cys
50 55 60

Ser Leu Ala Ile Ser Asp Met Leu Gly Ser Leu Tyr Lys Ile Leu Glu
65 70 75 80

Asn Ile Leu Ile Ile Leu Arg Asn Met Gly Ile Leu Lys Pro Arg Gly
85 90 95

Ser Phe Glu Thr Thr Ala His Asp Ile Ile Asp Ser Leu Phe Leu Leu
100 105 110

Ser Arg Leu Gly Ser Ile Phe Asp Leu Leu Val Ile Ala Ala Asp Arg
115 120 125

Tyr Ile Thr Ile Phe His Ala Leu Arg Tyr His Ser Ile Val Thr Met
130 135 140

Arg Arg Thr Val Val Val Leu Thr Val Ile Trp Thr Phe Cys Thr Gly
145 150 155 160

Thr Gly Ile Thr Met Val Ile Phe Ser His His Val Pro His Val Ile
165 170 175

Thr Phe Thr Ser Leu Phe Pro Leu Met Leu Val Phe Ile Leu Cys Leu
180 185 190

Tyr Val His Met Phe Leu Leu Ala Arg Trp His Thr Arg Lys Ile Ser
195 200 205

Thr Leu Pro Arg Ala Asn Met Lys Gly Ala Met Thr Leu Thr Ile Leu
210 215 220

Leu Gly Val Phe Ile Phe Cys Trp Ala Pro Phe Val Leu His Val Leu
 225 230 235 240

Leu Met Thr Phe Cys Pro Ser Asn Pro Tyr Cys Ala Cys Tyr Met Ser
 245 250 255

Leu Phe Gln Val Asn Gly Met Leu Ile Met Cys Asn Ala Val Ile Asp
 260 265 270

Pro Phe Ile Tyr Ala Phe Arg Ser Pro Glu Leu Arg Asp Ala Phe Lys
 275 280 285

Lys Met Ile Phe Cys Ser Arg Tyr Trp *
 290 295

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:9:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 1108 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA to mRNA

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: 5'UTR
- (B) LOCATION: 1..132

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: CDS
- (B) LOCATION: 133..1026

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: 3'UTR
- (B) LOCATION: 1027..1106

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:9:

GGGGCCAGAA AGTTCTGCT TCAGAGCAGA AGATCTTCAG CAAGAACTAC AAAGAAGAAA 60
 AGATTCTGGA GAATCAATCA AGTTTCCGT CAAGTTCCAG TAACGTTTCT GTCTTAACTG 120
 CACACAGGAA AG ATG AAA CAC ATT CTC AAT CTG TAT GAA AAC CTC AAC 168
 Met Lys His Ile Leu Asn Leu Tyr Glu Asn Leu Asn
 1 5 10

AGT ACA GCA AGA AAT AAC TCA GAC TGT CCT GCT GTG ATT TTG CCA GAA Ser Thr Ala Arg Asn Asn Ser Asp Cys Pro Ala Val Ile Leu Pro Glu 15 20 25	216
GAG ATA TTT TTC ACA GTA TCC ATT GTT GGG GTT TTG GAG AAC CTG ATG Glu Ile Phe Phe Thr Val Ser Ile Val Gly Val Leu Glu Asn Leu Met 30 35 40	264
GTC CTT CTG GCT GTG GCC AAG AAT AAG ATG CTT CAG TCG CCC ATG TAC Val Leu Leu Ala Val Ala Lys Asn Lys Met Leu Gln Ser Pro Met Tyr 45 50 55 60	312
TTT TTC ATC TGC AGC TTG GCT ATT TCC GAT ATG CTG GGG AGC ATG TAC Phe Phe Ile Cys Ser Leu Ala Ile Ser Asp Met Leu Gly Ser Met Tyr 65 70 75	360
AAG ATT TTG GAA AAC GTT CTG ATC ATG TTC AAA AAC ATG GGT TAC CTC Lys Ile Leu Glu Asn Val Leu Ile Met Phe Lys Asn Met Gly Tyr Leu 80 85 90	408
GAG CCT CGA GGC AGT TTT GAA AGC ACA GCA GAT GAT GTG GTG GAC TCC Glu Pro Arg Gly Ser Phe Glu Ser Thr Ala Asp Asp Val Val Asp Ser 95 100 105	456
CTG TTC ATC CTC TCC CTT CTC GGC TCC ATC TGC AGC CTG TCT GTG ATT Leu Phe Ile Leu Ser Leu Leu Gly Ser Ile Cys Ser Leu Ser Val Ile 110 115 120	504
GCC GCT GAC CGC TAC ACT ACA ATC TTC CAC GCT CTG CAG TAC CAC CGC Ala Ala Asp Arg Tyr Thr Thr Ile Phe His Ala Leu Gln Tyr His Arg 125 130 135 140	552
ATC ATG ACC CCC GCA CCG TGC CCT CGT CAT CTG ACG GTC CTC TGG CGA Ile Met Thr Pro Ala Pro Cys Pro Arg His Leu Thr Val Leu Trp Arg 145 150 155	600
GGC TGC ACA GGC AGT GGC ATT ACC ATC GTG ACC TTC TCC CAT CAC GTC Gly Cys Thr Gly Ser Gly Ile Thr Ile Val Thr Phe Ser His His Val 160 165 170	648
CCC ACA GTG ATC GCC TTC ACA GCG CTG TTC CCG CTG ATG CTG GCC TTC Pro Thr Val Ile Ala Phe Thr Ala Leu Phe Pro Leu Met Leu Ala Phe 175 180 185	696
ATC CTG TGC CTC TAC GTG CAC ATG TTC CTG CTG GCC CGC TCC CAC ACC Ile Leu Cys Leu Tyr Val His Met Phe Leu Leu Ala Arg Ser His Thr 190 195 200	744
AGG AGG ACC CCC TCC CTT CCC AAA GCC AAC ATG AGA GGG GCC GTC ACA Arg Arg Thr Pro Ser Leu Pro Lys Ala Asn Met Arg Gly Ala Val Thr 205 210 215	792

CTG ACT GTC CTG CTC GGG GTC TTC ATT TTC TGT TGG GCA CCC TTT GTC Leu Thr Val Leu Leu Gly Val Phe Ile Phe Cys Trp Ala Pro Phe Val 225 230 235	840
CTT CAT GTC CTC TTG ATG ACA TTC TGC CCA GCT GAC CCC TAC TGT GCC Leu His Val Leu Leu Met Thr Phe Cys Pro Ala Asp Pro Tyr Cys Ala 240 245 250	888
TGC TAC ATG TCC CTC TTC CAG GTG AAT GGT GTG TTG ATC ATG TGT AAT Cys Tyr Met Ser Leu Phe Gln Val Asn Gly Val Leu Ile Met Cys Asn 255 260 265	936
GCC ATC ATC GAC CCC TTC ATA TAT GCC TTT CGG AGC CCA GAG CTC AGG Ala Ile Ile Asp Pro Phe Ile Tyr Ala Phe Arg Ser Pro Glu Leu Arg 270 275 280	984
GTC GCA TTC AAA AAG ATG GTT ATC TGC AAC TGT TAC CAG TAG Val Ala Phe Lys Lys Met Val Ile Cys Asn Cys Tyr Gln * 285 290 295	1026
AATGATTGGT CCCTGATTTT AGGAGCCACA GGGATATACT GTCAGGGACA GAGTAGCGTG	1086
ACAGACCAAC AACACTAGGA CT	1108

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:10:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 297 amino acids
- (B) TYPE: amino acid
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:10:

Met Lys His Ile Leu Asn Leu Tyr Glu Asn Leu Asn Ser Thr Ala Arg
1 5 10 15

Asn Asn Ser Asp Cys Pro Ala Val Ile Leu Pro Glu Glu Ile Phe Phe
20 25 30

Thr Val Ser Ile Val Gly Val Leu Glu Asn Leu Met Val Leu Leu Ala
35 40 45

Val Ala Lys Asn Lys Met Leu Gln Ser Pro Met Tyr Phe Phe Ile Cys
50 55 60

Ser Leu Ala Ile Ser Asp Met Leu Gly Ser Met Tyr Lys Ile Leu Glu
65 70 75 80

Asn Val Leu Ile Met Phe Lys Asn Met Gly Tyr Leu Glu Pro Arg Gly
85 90 95

Ser Phe Glu Ser Thr Ala Asp Asp Val Val Asp Ser Leu Phe Ile Leu
100 105 110

Ser Leu Leu Gly Ser Ile Cys Ser Leu Ser Val Ile Ala Ala Asp Arg
115 120 125

Tyr Thr Thr Ile Phe His Ala Leu Gln Tyr His Arg Ile Met Thr Pro
130 135 140

Ala Pro Cys Pro Arg His Leu Thr Val Leu Trp Arg Gly Cys Thr Gly
145 150 155 160

Ser Gly Ile Thr Ile Val Thr Phe Ser His His Val Pro Thr Val Ile
165 170 175

Ala Phe Thr Ala Leu Phe Pro Leu Met Leu Ala Phe Ile Leu Cys Leu
180 185 190

Tyr Val His Met Phe Leu Leu Ala Arg Ser His Thr Arg Arg Thr Pro
195 200 205

Ser Leu Pro Lys Ala Asn Met Arg Gly Ala Val Thr Leu Thr Val Leu
210 215 220

Leu Gly Val Phe Ile Phe Cys Trp Ala Pro Phe Val Leu His Val Leu
225 230 235 240

Leu Met Thr Phe Cys Pro Ala Asp Pro Tyr Cys Ala Cys Tyr Met Ser
245 250 255

Leu Phe Gln Val Asn Gly Val Leu Ile Met Cys Asn Ala Ile Ile Asp
260 265 270

Pro Phe Ile Tyr Ala Phe Arg Ser Pro Glu Leu Arg Val Ala Phe Lys
275 280 285

Lys Met Val Ile Cys Asn Cys Tyr Gln *
290 295

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:11:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
- (A) LENGTH: 1338 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA to mRNA

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: 5'UTR
- (B) LOCATION: 1..297

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: CDS
- (B) LOCATION: 298..1269

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: 3'UTR
- (B) LOCATION: 1270..1338

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:11:

GGCTGTAAC	GTAGCAACCG	GTGTTGGGTG	GGGATGAGAA	GAGACCAGAG	AGAGAGAGGG	60
TCAGAGCGAC	AGGGGATGAG	ACAGGCTGGT	CAGAGTCTGC	ACTGATTGTT	GGAGACGCAA	120
AGGAAAAGTTT	TTTCTATGTC	TCCAACCTCC	CCCTCCTCCC	CCGTTTCTCT	CTGGAGAAC	180
TAAAATGTAG	ACTGGACAGC	ATCCACAAGA	GAAGCACCTA	GAAGAAGATT	TTTTTTTCCC	240
AGCAGCTTGC	TCAGGACCCCT	GCAGGAGCTG	CAGCCGGAAC	TGGTCCCGCC	GATAACC	297
ATG AAC TCT TCC TGC TGC CCG TCC TCC TCT TAT CCG ACG CTG CCT AAC	Met Asn Ser Ser Cys Cys Pro Ser Ser Tyr Pro Thr Leu Pro Asn					345
1	5	10	15			
CTC TCC CAG CAC CCT GCA GCC CCC TCT GCC AGC AAC CGG AGT GGC AGT	Leu Ser Gln His Pro Ala Ala Pro Ser Ala Ser Asn Arg Ser Gly Ser					393
20	25	30				
GGG TTC TGC GAG CAG GTT TTC ATC AAG CCA GAG GTC TTC CTG GCA CTG	Gly Phe Cys Glu Gln Val Phe Ile Lys Pro Glu Val Phe Leu Ala Leu					441
35	40	45				
GGC ATC GTC AGT CTG ATG GAA AAC ATC CTG GTG ATC CTG GCT GTG GTG	Gly Ile Val Ser Leu Met Glu Asn Ile Leu Val Ile Leu Ala Val Val					489
50	55	60				
AGG AAC GGC AAC CTG CAC TCC CCC ATG TAC TTC TTC CTG CTG AGC CTG	Arg Asn Gly Asn Leu His Ser Pro Met Tyr Phe Phe Leu Leu Ser Leu					537
65	70	75	80			
CTG CAG GCC GAC CTG CTG GTG AGC CTG TCC AAC TCC CTG GAG ACC ATC	Leu Gln Ala Asp Leu Leu Val Ser Leu Ser Asn Ser Leu Glu Thr Ile					585
85	90	95				

ATG ATC GTG GTT ATC AAC AGC GAC TCC CTG ACC TTG GAG GAC CAA TTC Met Ile Val Val Ile Asn Ser Asp Ser Leu Thr Leu Glu Asp Gln Phe 100 105 110	633
ATC CAG CAC ATG GAC AAC ATC TTC GAC TCT ATG ATC TGC ATC TCC CTG Ile Gln His Met Asp Asn Ile Phe Asp Ser Met Ile Cys Ile Ser Leu 115 120 125	681
GTC GCC TCC ATC TGC AAC CTC CTG GCC ATC GCC GTG GAC AGG TAC GTC Val Ala Ser Ile Cys Asn Leu Leu Ala Ile Ala Val Asp Arg Tyr Val 130 135 140	729
ACC ATC TTC TAT GCC CTC CGT TAC CAC AGC ATC ATG ACG GTT AGG AAA Thr Ile Phe Tyr Ala Leu Arg Tyr His Ser Ile Met Thr Val Arg Lys 145 150 155 160	777
GCC CTC TCC TTG ATC GTG GCC ATC TGG GTC TGC TGT GGC ATC TGC GGC Ala Leu Ser Leu Ile Val Ala Ile Trp Val Cys Cys Gly Ile Cys Gly 165 170 175	825
GTC ATG TTC ATC GTC TAC TCC GAG AGC AAG ATG GTC ATC GTG TGC CTC Val Met Phe Ile Val Tyr Ser Glu Ser Lys Met Val Ile Val Cys Leu 180 185 190	873
ATC ACC ATG TTC TTC GCC ATG GTG CTC CTC ATG GGC ACC CTG TAC ATC Ile Thr Met Phe Phe Ala Met Val Leu Leu Met Gly Thr Leu Tyr Ile 195 200 205	921
CAC ATG TTC CTC TTC GCC AGG CTG CAC GTC CAG CGC ATC GCG GCA CTG His Met Phe Leu Phe Ala Arg Leu His Val Gln Arg Ile Ala Ala Leu 210 215 220	969
CCA CCT GCT GAC GGG CTA GCC CCG CAG CAG CAC TCG TGC ATG AAG GGG Pro Pro Ala Asp Gly Leu Ala Pro Gln Gln His Ser Cys Met Lys Gly 225 230 235 240	1017
GCC GTC ACC ATC ACC ATC CTG CTG GGG GTT TTC ATC TTC TGC TGG GCG Ala Val Thr Ile Thr Ile Leu Leu Gly Val Phe Ile Phe Cys Trp Ala 245 250 255	1065
CCT TTC TTC CTC CAC CTG GTC CTC ATC ATC ACC TGC CCC ACC AAC CCC Pro Phe Phe Leu His Leu Val Leu Ile Ile Thr Cys Pro Thr Asn Pro 260 265 270	1113
TAC TGC ATC TGC TAC ACG GCG CAC TTC AAC ACC TAC CTG GTT CTC ATC Tyr Cys Ile Cys Tyr Thr Ala His Phe Asn Thr Tyr Leu Val Leu Ile 275 280 285	1161
ATG TGC AAC TCT GTC ATC GAC CCC CTC ATC TAC GCC TTC CGC AGC CTG Met Cys Asn Ser Val Ile Asp Pro Leu Ile Tyr Ala Phe Arg Ser Leu 290 295 300	1209

GAG CTG CGA AAC ACC TTC AAG GAG ATT CTC TGC GGT TGC AAT GGC ATG Glu Leu Arg Asn Thr Phe Lys Glu Ile Leu Cys Gly Cys Asn Gly Met 305 310 315 320	1257
AAC GTG GGC TAG GAACCCCCGA GGAGGTGTTCAACGGCTAGC CAAGAGAGAA Asn Val Gly *	1309

AAGCAATGCT CAGGTGAGAC ACAGAAAGGG	1338
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(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:12:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 323 amino acids
 (B) TYPE: amino acid
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:12:

Met Asn Ser Ser Cys Cys Pro Ser Ser Ser Tyr Pro Thr Leu Pro Asn 1 5 10 15
Leu Ser Gln His Pro Ala Ala Pro Ser Ala Ser Asn Arg Ser Gly Ser 20 25 30
Gly Phe Cys Glu Gln Val Phe Ile Lys Pro Glu Val Phe Leu Ala Leu 35 40 45
Gly Ile Val Ser Leu Met Glu Asn Ile Leu Val Ile Leu Ala Val Val 50 55 60
Arg Asn Gly Asn Leu His Ser Pro Met Tyr Phe Phe Leu Leu Ser Leu 65 70 75 80
Leu Gln Ala Asp Leu Leu Val Ser Leu Ser Asn Ser Leu Glu Thr Ile 85 90 95
Met Ile Val Val Ile Asn Ser Asp Ser Leu Thr Leu Glu Asp Gln Phe 100 105 110
Ile Gln His Met Asp Asn Ile Phe Asp Ser Met Ile Cys Ile Ser Leu 115 120 125
Val Ala Ser Ile Cys Asn Leu Leu Ala Ile Ala Val Asp Arg Tyr Val 130 135 140
Thr Ile Phe Tyr Ala Leu Arg Tyr His Ser Ile Met Thr Val Arg Lys 145 150 155 160

Ala Leu Ser Leu Ile Val Ala Ile Trp Val Cys Cys Gly Ile Cys Gly
 165 170 175

Val Met Phe Ile Val Tyr Ser Glu Ser Lys Met Val Ile Val Cys Leu
 180 185 190

Ile Thr Met Phe Phe Ala Met Val Leu Leu Met Gly Thr Leu Tyr Ile
 195 200 205

His Met Phe Leu Phe Ala Arg Leu His Val Gln Arg Ile Ala Ala Leu
 210 215 220

Pro Pro Ala Asp Gly Leu Ala Pro Gln Gln His Ser Cys Met Lys Gly
 225 230 235 240

Ala Val Thr Ile Thr Ile Leu Leu Gly Val Phe Ile Phe Cys Trp Ala
 245 250 255

Pro Phe Phe Leu His Leu Val Leu Ile Ile Thr Cys Pro Thr Asn Pro
 260 265 270

Tyr Cys Ile Cys Tyr Thr Ala His Phe Asn Thr Tyr Leu Val Leu Ile
 275 280 285

Met Cys Asn Ser Val Ile Asp Pro Leu Ile Tyr Ala Phe Arg Ser Leu
 290 295 300

Glu Leu Arg Asn Thr Phe Lys Glu Ile Leu Cys Gly Cys Asn Gly Met
 305 310 315 320

Asn Val Gly *

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:13:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 30 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)

-
- (ix) FEATURE:
 - (A) NAME/KEY: mics_feature
 - (B) LOCATION: 1..30
 - (D) OTHER INFORMATION: /function = "Degenerate oligonucleotide primer (sense)"

- (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:13:

GAGTCGACCR CCCATGTAYT DYTTCATCTG

30

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:15:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 1671 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA to mRNA

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: 5'UTR
- (B) LOCATION: 1..393

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: CDS
- (B) LOCATION: 394..1389

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: 3'UTR
- (B) LOCATION: 1390..1671

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:15:

AGCTTCCGAG AGGCAGCCGA TGTGAGCATG TGCGCACAGA TTCTCTCCC AATGGCATGG	60
CAGCTTCAAG GAAAATTATT TTGAACAGAC TTGAATGCAT AAGATTAAG TTAAAGCAGA	120
AGTGAGAACCA AGAAAGCAAA GAGCAGACTC TTTCAACTGA GAATGAATAT TTTGAAGCCC	180
AAGATTTAA CGTGATGATG ATTAGAGTCG TACCTAAAAG AGACTAAAAA CTCCATGTCA	240
AGCTCTGGAC TTGTGACATT TACTCACAGC AGGCATGGCA ATTTTAGCCT CACAACTTTC	300
AGACAGATAA AGACTTGGAG GAAATAACTG AGACGACTCC CTGACCCAGG AGGTTAAATC	360
AATTCAAGGGG GACACTGGAA TTCTCCTGCC AGC ATG GTG AAC TCC ACC CAC CGT Met Val Asn Ser Thr His Arg	414
1 5	
GGG ATG CAC ACT TCT CTG CAC CTC TGG AAC CGC AGC AGT TAC AGA CTG Gly Met His Thr Ser Leu His Leu Trp Asn Arg Ser Ser Tyr Arg Leu	462
10 15 20	
CAC AGC AAT GCC AGT GAG TCC CTT GGA AAA GGC TAC TCT GAT GGA GGG His Ser Asn Ala Ser Glu Ser Leu Gly Lys Gly Tyr Ser Asp Gly Gly	510
25 30 35	

TGC TAC GCG CAA CTT TTT GTC TCT CCT GAG GTG TTT GTG ACT CTG GGT Cys Tyr Ala Gln Leu Phe Val Ser Pro Glu Val Phe Val Thr Leu Gly 40 45 50 55	558
GTG ATC AGC TTG TTG GAG AAT ATC TTA GAG ATT GTG GCA ATA GCC AAG Val Ile Ser Leu Leu Glu Asn Ile Leu Glu Ile Val Ala Ile Ala Lys 60 65 70	606
AAC AAG AAT CTG CAT TCA CCC ATG TAC TTT TTC ATC TGC AGC TTG GCT Asn Lys Asn Leu His Ser Pro Met Tyr Phe Phe Ile Cys Ser Leu Ala 75 80 85	654
GTG GCT GAT ATG CTG GTG AGC GTT TCA AAT GGA TCA GAA ACC ATT ATC Val Ala Asp Met Leu Val Ser Val Ser Asn Gly Ser Glu Thr Ile Ile 90 95 100	702
ATC ACC CTA TTA AAC CGT ACA GAT ACG GAT GCA CAG AGT TTC ACA GTG Ile Thr Leu Leu Asn Arg Thr Asp Thr Asp Ala Gln Ser Phe Thr Val 105 110 115	750
AAT ATT GAT AAT GTC ATT GAC TCG GTG ATC TGT AGC TCC TTG CTT GCA Asn Ile Asp Asn Val Ile Asp Ser Val Ile Cys Ser Ser Leu Leu Ala 120 125 130 135	798
TCC ATT TGC AGC CTG CTT TCA ATT GCA GTG GAC AGG TAC TTT ACT ATC Ser Ile Cys Ser Leu Leu Ser Ile Ala Val Asp Arg Tyr Phe Thr Ile 140 145 150	846
TTC TAT GCT CTC CAG TAC CAT AAC ATT ATG ACA GTT AAG CGG GTT GGG Phe Tyr Ala Leu Gln Tyr His Asn Ile Met Thr Val Lys Arg Val Gly 155 160 165	894
ATC AGC ATA AGT TGT ATC TGG GCA GCT TGC ACG GTT TCA GGT ATT TTG Ile Ser Ile Ser Cys Ile Trp Ala Ala Cys Thr Val Ser Gly Ile Leu 170 175 180	942
TTC ATC ATT TAC TCA GAT AGT AGT GCT GTC ATC ATC TGC CTC ATC ACC Phe Ile Ile Tyr Ser Asp Ser Ser Ala Val Ile Ile Cys Leu Ile Thr 185 190 195	990
ATG TTC ACC ATG CTG GCT CTC ATG GCT TCT CTC TAT GTC CAC CTG Met Phe Phe Thr Met Leu Ala Leu Met Ala Ser Leu Tyr Val His Leu 200 205 210 215	1038
TTC CTG ATG GCC AGG CTT CAC ATT AAG AGG ATT GCT GTC CTC CCC GGC Phe Leu Met Ala Arg Leu His Ile Lys Arg Ile Ala Val Leu Pro Gly 220 225 230	1086
ACT GGT GCC ATC CGC CAA GGT GCC AAT ATG AAG GGA GCG ATT ACC TTG Thr Gly Ala Ile Arg Gln Gly Ala Asn Met Lys Gly Ala Ile Thr Leu 235 240 245	1134

ACC ATC CTG ATT GGC GTC TTT GTT GTC TGC TGG GCC CCA TTC TTC CTC Thr Ile Leu Ile Gly Val Phe Val Val Cys Trp Ala Pro Phe Phe Leu 250 255 260	1182
CAC TTA ATA TTC TAC ATC TCT TGT CCT CAG AAT CCA TAT TGT GTG TGC His Leu Ile Phe Tyr Ile Ser Cys Pro Gln Asn Pro Tyr Cys Val Cys 265 270 275	1230
TTC ATG TCT CAC TTT AAC TTG TAT CTC ATA CTG ATC ATG TGT AAT TCA Phe Met Ser His Phe Asn Leu Tyr Leu Ile Leu Ile Met Cys Asn Ser 280 285 290 295	1278
ATC ATC GAT CCT CTG ATT TAT GCA CTC CGG AGT CAA GAA CTG AGG AAA Ile Ile Asp Pro Leu Ile Tyr Ala Leu Arg Ser Gln Glu Leu Arg Lys 300 305 310	1326
ACC TTC AAA GAG ATC ATC TCT TCC TAT CCC CTG GGA GGC CTT TGT GAC Thr Phe Lys Glu Ile Ile Ser Ser Tyr Pro Leu Gly Gly Leu Cys Asp 315 320 325	1374
TTG TCT AGC AGA TAT TAAATGGGGA CAGAGCACGC AATATAGGAA CATCCATAAG Leu Ser Ser Arg Tyr 330	1429
AGACTTTTC ACTCTTACCC TACCTGAATA TTCTACTTCT GCAACAGCTT TCTCTTCCGT	1489
GTTGGTACT GGTTGAGATA TCCATTGTGT AAATTTAACG CTATGATTT TAATGAGAAA	1549
AAATGCCAG TCTCTGTATT ATTTCCAATC TCATGCTACT TTTTGGCCA TAAAATATGA	1609
ATCTATGTTA TAGGTTGTAG GCACTGTGGA TTTACAAAAA GAAAAGTCCT TATTAAAAGA	1669
TT	1671

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:16:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 332 amino acids
- (B) TYPE: amino acid
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:16:

Met Val Asn Ser Thr His Arg Gly Met His Thr Ser Leu His Leu Trp	
1 5 10 15	
Asn Arg Ser Ser Tyr Arg Leu His Ser Asn Ala Ser Glu Ser Leu Gly	
20 25 30	

Lys Gly Tyr Ser Asp Gly Gly Cys Tyr Ala Gln Leu Phe Val Ser Pro
 35 40 45

Glu Val Phe Val Thr Leu Gly Val Ile Ser Leu Leu Glu Asn Ile Leu
 50 55 60

Glu Ile Val Ala Ile Ala Lys Asn Lys Asn Leu His Ser Pro Met Tyr
 65 70 75 80

Phe Phe Ile Cys Ser Leu Ala Val Ala Asp Met Leu Val Ser Val Ser
 85 90 95

Asn Gly Ser Glu Thr Ile Ile Thr Leu Leu Asn Arg Thr Asp Thr
 100 105 110

Asp Ala Gln Ser Phe Thr Val Asn Ile Asp Asn Val Ile Asp Ser Val
 115 120 125

Ile Cys Ser Ser Leu Leu Ala Ser Ile Cys Ser Leu Leu Ser Ile Ala
 130 135 140

Val Asp Arg Tyr Phe Thr Ile Phe Tyr Ala Leu Gln Tyr His Asn Ile
 145 150 155 160

Met Thr Val Lys Arg Val Gly Ile Ser Ile Ser Cys Ile Trp Ala Ala
 165 170 175

Cys Thr Val Ser Gly Ile Leu Phe Ile Ile Tyr Ser Asp Ser Ser Ala
 180 185 190

Val Ile Ile Cys Leu Ile Thr Met Phe Phe Thr Met Leu Ala Leu Met
 195 200 205

Ala Ser Leu Tyr Val His Leu Phe Leu Met Ala Arg Leu His Ile Lys
 210 215 220

Arg Ile Ala Val Leu Pro Gly Thr Gly Ala Ile Arg Gln Gly Ala Asn
 225 230 235 240

Met Lys Gly Ala Ile Thr Leu Thr Ile Leu Ile Gly Val Phe Val Val
 245 250 255

Cys Trp Ala Pro Phe Phe Leu His Leu Ile Phe Tyr Ile Ser Cys Pro
 260 265 270

Gln Asn Pro Tyr Cys Val Cys Phe Met Ser His Phe Asn Leu Tyr Leu
 275 280 285

Ile Leu Ile Met Cys Asn Ser Ile Ile Asp Pro Leu Ile Tyr Ala Leu
 290 295 300

Arg Ser Gln Glu Leu Arg Lys Thr Phe Lys Glu Ile Ile Ser Ser Tyr
 305 310 315 320

Pro Leu Gly Gly Leu Cys Asp Leu Ser Ser Arg Tyr
 325 330

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:17:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 978 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: CDS
- (B) LOCATION: 1..975

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:17:

ATG AAC TCC TCC ACC CTG ACT GTA TTG AAT CTT ACC CTG AAC GCC	48
Met Asn Ser Ser Ser Thr Leu Thr Val Leu Asn Leu Thr Leu Asn Ala	
1 5 10 15	
TCA GAG GAT GGC ATT TTA GGA TCA AAT GTC AAG AAC AAG TCT TTG GCC	96
Ser Glu Asp Gly Ile Leu Gly Ser Asn Val Lys Asn Lys Ser Leu Ala	
20 25 30	
TGT GAA GAA ATG GGC ATT GCC GTG GAG GTG TTC CTG ACC CTG GGT CTC	144
Cys Glu Glu Met Gly Ile Ala Val Glu Val Phe Leu Thr Leu Gly Leu	
35 40 45	
GTC AGC CTC TTA GAG AAC ATC CTG GTC ATT GGG GCC ATA GTA AAG AAC	192
Val Ser Leu Leu Glu Asn Ile Leu Val Ile Gly Ala Ile Val Lys Asn	
50 55 60	
AAA AAC CTG CAC TCA CCC ATG TAC TTC TTT GTG GGC AGC TTA GCC GTG	240
Lys Asn Leu His Ser Pro Met Tyr Phe Phe Val Gly Ser Leu Ala Val	
65 70 75 80	
GCC GAC ATG CTG GTG AGC ATG TCC AAT GCC TGG GAG ACT GTC ACC ATA	288
Ala Asp Met Leu Val Ser Met Ser Asn Ala Trp Glu Thr Val Thr Ile	
85 90 95	
TAC TTG CTA AAT AAT AAA CAC CTG GTG ATA GCC GAC ACC TTT GTG CGA	336
Tyr Leu Leu Asn Asn Lys His Leu Val Ile Ala Asp Thr Phe Val Arg	
100 105 110	

CAC ATC GAC AAC GTG TTC GAC TCC ATG ATC TGC ATC TCT GTG GTG GCC His Ile Asp Asn Val Phe Asp Ser Met Ile Cys Ile Ser Val Val Ala 115 120 125	384
TCG ATG TGC AGT TTG CTG GCC ATT GCG GTG GAT AGG TAC ATC ACC ATC Ser Met Cys Ser Leu Leu Ala Ile Ala Val Asp Arg Tyr Ile Thr Ile 130 135 140	432
TTC TAT GCC TTG CGC TAC CAC CAC ATC ATG ACC GCG AGG CGC TCG GGG Phe Tyr Ala Leu Arg Tyr His His Ile Met Thr Ala Arg Arg Ser Gly 145 150 155 160	480
GTG ATC ATC GCC TGC ATT TGG ACC TTC TGC ATA AGC TGC GGC ATT GTT Val Ile Ile Ala Cys Ile Trp Thr Phe Cys Ile Ser Cys Gly Ile Val 165 170 175	528
TTC ATC ATC TAC TAT GAG TCC AAG TAT GTG ATC ATT TGC CTC ATC TCC Phe Ile Ile Tyr Tyr Glu Ser Lys Tyr Val Ile Ile Cys Leu Ile Ser 180 185 190	576
ATG TTC TTC ACC ATG CTG TTC ATG GTG TCT CTG TAT ATA CAC ATG Met Phe Phe Thr Met Leu Phe Phe Met Val Ser Leu Tyr Ile His Met 195 200 205	624
TTC CTC CTG GCC CGG AAC CAT GTC AAG CGG ATA GCA GCT TCC CCC AGA Phe Leu Leu Ala Arg Asn His Val Lys Arg Ile Ala Ala Ser Pro Arg 210 215 220	672
TAC AAC TCC GTG AGG CAA AGG ACC AGC ATG AAG GGG GCT ATT ACC CTC Tyr Asn Ser Val Arg Gln Arg Thr Ser Met Lys Gly Ala Ile Thr Leu 225 230 235 240	720
ACC ATG CTA CTG GGG ATT TTC ATT GTC TGC TGG TCT CCC TTC TTT CTT Thr Met Leu Leu Gly Ile Phe Ile Val Cys Trp Ser Pro Phe Phe Leu 245 250 255	768
CAC CTT ATC TTA ATG ATC TCC CCT CAG AAC GTC TAC TGC TCT TGC His Leu Ile Leu Met Ile Ser Cys Pro Gin Asn Val Tyr Cys Ser Cys 260 265 270	816
TTT ATG TCT TAC TTC AAC ATG TAC CTT ATA CTC ATC ATG TGC AAC TCC Phe Met Ser Tyr Phe Asn Met Tyr Leu Ile Leu Ile Met Cys Asn Ser 275 280 285	864
GTG ATC GAT CCT CTC ATC TAC GCC CTC CGC AGC CAA GAG ATG CGG AGG Val Ile Asp Pro Leu Ile Tyr Ala Leu Arg Ser Gln Glu Met Arg Arg 290 295 300	912
ACC TTT AAG GAG ATC GTC TGT TGT CAC GGA TTC CGG CGA CCT TGT AGG Thr Phe Lys Glu Ile Val Cys Cys His Gly Phe Arg Arg Pro Cys Arg 305 310 315 320	960

CTC CTT GGC GGG TAT TAA
 Leu Leu Gly Gly Tyr
 325

978

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:18:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 325 amino acids
- (B) TYPE: amino acid
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:18:

Met	Asn	Ser	Ser	Ser	Thr	Leu	Thr	Val	Leu	Asn	Leu	Thr	Leu	Asn	Ala
1															15
Ser	Glu	Asp	Gly	Ile	Leu	Gly	Ser	Asn	Val	Lys	Asn	Lys	Ser	Leu	Ala
															30
Cys	Glu	Glu	Met	Gly	Ile	Ala	Val	Glu	Val	Phe	Leu	Thr	Leu	Gly	Leu
															45
Val	Ser	Leu	Leu	Glu	Asn	Ile	Leu	Val	Ile	Gly	Ala	Ile	Val	Lys	Asn
															60
Lys	Asn	Leu	His	Ser	Pro	Met	Tyr	Phe	Phe	Val	Gly	Ser	Leu	Ala	Val
															80
Ala	Asp	Met	Leu	Val	Ser	Met	Ser	Asn	Ala	Trp	Glu	Thr	Val	Thr	Ile
															95
Tyr	Leu	Leu	Asn	Asn	Lys	His	Leu	Val	Ile	Ala	Asp	Thr	Phe	Val	Arg
															110
His	Ile	Asp	Asn	Val	Phe	Asp	Ser	Met	Ile	Cys	Ile	Ser	Val	Val	Ala
															125
Ser	Met	Cys	Ser	Leu	Leu	Ala	Ile	Ala	Val	Asp	Arg	Tyr	Ile	Thr	Ile
															140
Phe	Tyr	Ala	Leu	Arg	Tyr	His	His	Ile	Met	Thr	Ala	Arg	Arg	Ser	Gly
															160
Val	Ile	Ile	Ala	Cys	Ile	Trp	Thr	Phe	Cys	Ile	Ser	Cys	Gly	Ile	Val
															175

Phe Ile Ile Tyr Tyr Glu Ser Lys Tyr Val Ile Ile Cys Leu Ile Ser
 180 185 190

Met Phe Phe Thr Met Leu Phe Phe Met Val Ser Leu Tyr Ile His Met
 195 200 205

Phe Leu Leu Ala Arg Asn His Val Lys Arg Ile Ala Ala Ser Pro Arg
 210 215 220

Tyr Asn Ser Val Arg Gln Arg Thr Ser Met Lys Gly Ala Ile Thr Leu
 225 230 235 240

Thr Met Leu Leu Gly Ile Phe Ile Val Cys Trp Ser Pro Phe Phe Leu
 245 250 255

His Leu Ile Leu Met Ile Ser Cys Pro Gln Asn Val Tyr Cys Ser Cys
 260 265 270

Phe Met Ser Tyr Phe Asn Met Tyr Leu Ile Leu Ile Met Cys Asn Ser
 275 280 285

Val Ile Asp Pro Leu Ile Tyr Ala Leu Arg Ser Gln Glu Met Arg Arg
 290 295 300

Thr Phe Lys Glu Ile Val Cys Cys His Gly Phe Arg Arg Pro Cys Arg
 305 310 315 320

Leu Leu Gly Gly Tyr
 325

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:19:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 30 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: misc_feature
- (B) LOCATION: 1..32
- (D) OTHER INFORMATION: /function = "Degenerate oligonucleotide primer (antisense)"

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:19:

GAATTCGACG TCACAGTATG ACGGCCATGG

30

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:

1. A method for characterizing a compound as an agonist of a mammalian melanocortin receptor, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a panel comprising a first mammalian cell comprising a recombinant expression construct encoding a mammalian melanocortin receptor that is the α -MSH receptor, a second mammalian cell comprising a recombinant expression construct encoding a mammalian melanocortin receptor that is the ACTH receptor, a third mammalian cell comprising a recombinant expression construct encoding a mammalian melanocortin receptor that is the MC-3 receptor, a fourth mammalian cell comprising a recombinant expression construct encoding a mammalian melanocortin receptor that is the MC-4 receptor, and a fifth mammalian cell comprising a recombinant expression construct encoding a mammalian melanocortin receptor that is the MC-5 receptor, wherein each mammalian cell expresses the melanocortin receptor encoded by the recombinant expression construct comprising the cell;

(b) contacting each of the cells of the panel with a test compound to be characterized as an agonist of a mammalian melanocortin receptor;

(c) detecting binding of the test compound to each of the mammalian melanocortin receptors by assaying for a metabolite produced in the cells that bind the compound.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the metabolite detected in subpart (c) is cyclic AMP.

3. The method of claim 1, each of the cells further comprising a recombinant expression construct encoding a cyclic AMP responsive element (CRE) transcription factor binding site operatively linked to a nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein capable of producing a detectable metabolite.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the nucleic acid sequence encodes β -galactosidase.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein the recombinant expression construct is pCRE/β-galactosidase.

5 6. The method of claim 3, wherein the detectable metabolite produced by the protein encoded by the recombinant expression construct is produced by binding of the test compound to the mammalian melanocortin receptor encoded by each of the cells of the panel.

10 7. A method for characterizing a compound as an antagonist of a mammalian melanocortin receptor, the method comprising the steps of:

15 (a) providing a panel comprising a first mammalian cell comprising a recombinant expression construct encoding a mammalian melanocortin receptor that is the α-MSH receptor, a second mammalian cell comprising a recombinant expression construct encoding a mammalian melanocortin receptor that is the ACTH receptor, a third mammalian cell comprising a recombinant expression construct encoding a mammalian melanocortin receptor that is the MC-3 receptor, a fourth mammalian cell comprising a recombinant expression construct encoding a mammalian melanocortin receptor that is the MC-4 receptor, and a fifth mammalian cell comprising a recombinant expression construct encoding a mammalian melanocortin receptor that is the MC-5 receptor, wherein each mammalian cell expresses the melanocortin receptor encoded by the recombinant expression construct comprising the cell;

20 (b) contacting each of the cells of the panel with an agonist of the mammalian melanocortin receptor in an amount sufficient to produce a detectable amount of a metabolite produced in the cells that bind the agonist, in the presence or absence of a test compound to be characterized as an antagonist of a mammalian melanocortin receptor;

25 (c) detecting the amount of the metabolite produced in each cell in the panel in the presence of the test compound with the amount of the metabolite produced in each cell in the panel in the absence.

30

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the metabolite detected in subpart (c) is cyclic AMP.

9. The method of claim 7, each of the cells further comprising a recombinant expression construct encoding a cyclic AMP responsive element (CRE) transcription factor binding site operatively linked to a nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein capable of producing a detectable metabolite.

5

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the nucleic acid sequence encodes β -galactosidase.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the recombinant expression construct is pCRE/ β -galactosidase.

15

12. The method of claim 9, wherein the detectable metabolite produced by the protein encoded by the recombinant expression construct is produced by binding of the test compound to the mammalian melanocortin receptor encoded by each of the cells of the panel.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein the test compound is an agonist of the MC-3 mammalian melanocortin receptor.

20

14. The method of claim 1 wherein the test compound is an agonist of the MC-4 mammalian melanocortin receptor.

15. The method of claim 3 wherein the test compound is an agonist of the MC-3 mammalian melanocortin receptor.

25

16. The method of claim 3 wherein the test compound is an agonist of the MC-4 mammalian melanocortin receptor.

30

17. The method of claim 7 wherein the test compound is an antagonist of the MC-3 mammalian melanocortin receptor.

18. The method of claim 7 wherein the test compound is an antagonist of the MC-4 mammalian melanocortin receptor.

19. The method of claim 9 wherein the test compound is an antagonist of the
5 MC-3 mammalian melanocortin receptor.

20. The method of claim 9 wherein the test compound is an antagonist of the MC-4 mammalian melanocortin receptor.

10 21. A mammalian melanocortin MC-3 receptor agonist according to claims
13 or 15.

22. A mammalian melanocortin MC-4 receptor agonist according to claims
14 or 16.

15 23. A mammalian melanocortin MC-3 receptor antagonist according to
claims 17 or 19.

20 24. A mammalian melanocortin MC-4 receptor antagonist according to
claims 18 or 20.

25 25. A method of inhibiting feeding behavior in an animal, the method comprising administering an effective amount of a mammalian melanocortin MC-3 or MC-4 receptor agonist according to claim 21.

26. A method of stimulating feeding behavior in an animal, the method comprising administering an effective amount of a mammalian melanocortin MC-3 or MC-4 receptor antagonist according to claim 24.

30 27. A method for characterizing a mammalian melanocortin MC-3 or MC-4 receptor agonist as an inhibitor of feeding behavior in an animal, the method comprising:

(a) providing food to an animal that has been deprived of food for at least 12 hours with or without administering to the animal a mammalian melanocortin MC-3 or MC-4 receptor agonist according to claim 25; and

5 (b) comparing the amount of food eaten by the animal with and without administration of the mammalian melanocortin MC-3 or MC-4 receptor agonist.

28. A method for characterizing a mammalian melanocortin MC-3 or MC-4 receptor antagonist as a stimulator of feeding behavior in an animal, the method comprising:

10 (a) providing food to an animal that has not been otherwise deprived of food for at least 12 hours, with or without administering to the animal a mammalian melanocortin MC-3 or MC-4 receptor antagonist according to claim 26 immediately prior to the onset of darkness or nighttime; and

15 (b) comparing the amount of food eaten by the animal with and without administration of the mammalian melanocortin MC-3 or MC-4 receptor antagonist.

29. A mammalian melanocortin MC-3 or MC-4 receptor agonist having the general formula:

20 **A-B-C-D-E-F-G-amide**

wherein A is Leu, Ile, Nle, Met, or substituted analogues thereof;

B is Asp, Glu, or substituted analogues thereof;

C is His or substituted analogues thereof;

D is D-Phe, D-Tyr or substituted analogues thereof;

25 E is Arg, Lys, homoArg, homoLys, or substituted analogues thereof;

F is Trp or substituted analogues thereof;

G is Lys, homoLys or substituted analogues thereof;

and wherein the peptide is cyclized by the formation of an amide bond between the side chain carboxyl group of the Asp or Glu residue at position B in the peptide, and the side chain amino group of the Lys or homoLys residue at position G.

30. A mammalian melanocortin MC-3 or MC-4 receptor antagonist having the general formula:

A-B-C-D-E-F-G-amide

wherein A is Leu, Ile, Nle, Met, or substituted analogues thereof;

5 B is Asp, Glu or substituted analogues thereof;

C is His or substituted analogues thereof;

D is D-Nal or substituted analogues thereof;

E is Arg, Lys, homoArg, homoLys or substituted analogues thereof;

F is Trp or substituted analogues thereof;

10 G is Lys, homoLys or substituted analogues thereof;

and wherein the peptide is cyclized by the formation of an amide bond between the side chain carboxyl group of the Asp or Glu residue at position B in the peptide, and the side chain amino group of the Lys or homoLys residue at position G.

15 31. A biological screening panel for determining the receptor agonist/antagonist profile of a test compound, the panel comprising a first mammalian cell comprising a recombinant expression construct encoding a mammalian melanocortin receptor that is the α -MSH receptor, a second mammalian cell comprising a recombinant expression construct encoding a mammalian melanocortin receptor that is the ACTH receptor, a third mammalian cell comprising a recombinant expression construct encoding a mammalian melanocortin receptor that is the MC-3 receptor, a fourth mammalian cell comprising a recombinant expression construct encoding a mammalian melanocortin receptor that is the MC-4 receptor, and a fifth mammalian cell comprising a recombinant expression construct encoding a mammalian melanocortin receptor that is the MC-5 receptor, wherein each mammalian cell expresses the melanocortin receptor encoded by the recombinant expression construct comprising the cell.

FIG. 1A

TTCCCTGACAA GACT ATG TCC ACT CAG GAG CCC CAG AAG AGT CTT CTG GGT Met Ser Thr Gln Glu Pro Gln Lys Ser Leu Leu Gly	50
1 5 10	
TCT CTC AAC TCC AAT GCC ACC TCT CAC CTT GGA CTG GCC ACC AAC CAG Ser Leu Asn Ser Asn Ala Thr Ser His Leu Gly Leu Ala Thr Asn Gln	98
15 20 25	
TCA GAG CCT TGG TGC CTG TAT GTG TCC ATC CCA GAT GGC CTC TTC CTC Ser Glu Pro Trp Cys Leu Tyr Val Ser Ile Pro Asp Gly Leu Phe Leu	146
30 35 40	
AGC CTA GGG CTG GTG AGT CTG GTG GAG AAT GTG CTG GTT GTG ATA GCC Ser Leu Gly Leu Val Ser Leu Val Glu Asn Val Leu Val Val Ile Ala	194
45 50 55 60	
ATC ACC AAA AAC CGC AAC CTG CAC TCG CCC ATG TAT TAC TTC ATC TGC Ile Thr Lys Asn Arg Asn Leu His Ser Pro Met Tyr Tyr Phe Ile Cys	242
65 70 75	
TGC CTG GCC CTG TCT GAC CTG ATG GTA AGT GTC AGC ATC GTG CTG GAG Cys Leu Ala Leu Ser Asp Leu Met Val Ser Val Ser Ile Val Leu Glu	290
80 85 90	
ACT ACT ATC ATC CTG CTG GAG GTG GGC ATC CTG GTG GCC AGA GTG Thr Thr Ile Ile Leu Leu Glu Val Gly Ile Leu Val Ala Arg Val	338
95 100 105	
GCT TTG GTG CAG CAG CTG GAC AAC CTC ATT GAC GTG CTC ATC TGT GGC Ala Leu Val Gln Gln Leu Asp Asn Leu Ile Asp Val Leu Ile Cys Gly	386
110 115 120	
TCC ATG GTG TCC AGT CTC TGC TTC CTG GGC ATC ATT GCT ATA GAC CGC Ser Met Val Ser Ser Leu Cys Phe Leu Gly Ile Ile Ala Ile Asp Arg	434
125 130 135 140	
TAC ATC TCC ATC TTC TAT GCG CTG CGT TAT CAC AGC ATC GTG ACG CTG Tyr Ile Ser Ile Phe Tyr Ala Leu Arg Tyr His Ser Ile Val Thr Leu	482
145 150 155	
CCC AGA GCA CGA CGG GCT GTC GTG GGC ATC TGG ATG GTC AGC ATC GTC Pro Arg Ala Arg Arg Ala Val Val Gly Ile Trp Met Val Ser Ile Val	530
160 165 170	

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FIG. 1B

TCC AGC ACC CTC TTT ATC ACC TAC TAC AAG CAC ACA GCC GTT CTG CTC Ser Ser Thr Leu Phe Ile Thr Tyr Tyr Lys His Thr Ala Val Leu Leu 175 180 185	578
TGC CTC GTC ACT TTC TTT CTA GCC ATG CTG GCA CTC ATG GCG ATT CTG Cys Leu Val Thr Phe Phe Leu Ala Met Leu Ala Met Ala Ile Leu 190 195 200	626
TAT GCC CAC ATG TTC ACG AGA GCG TGC CAG CAC GTC CAG GGC ATT GCC Tyr Ala His Met Phe Thr Arg Ala Cys Gln His Val Gln Gly Ile Ala 205 210 215 220	674
CAG CTC CAC AAA AGG CGG CGG TCC ATC CGC CAA GGC TTC TGC CTC AAG Gln Leu His Lys Arg Arg Ser Ile Arg Gln Gly Phe Cys Leu Lys 225 230 235	722
GGT GCT GCC ACC CTT ACT ATC CTT CTG GGG ATT TTC TTC CTG TGC TGG Gly Ala Ala Thr Leu Thr Ile Leu Gly Ile Phe Phe Leu Cys Trp 240 245 250	770
GCG CCC TTC TTC CTG CAT CTC TTG CTC ATC GTC CTC TGC CCT CAG CAC Gly Pro Phe Phe Leu His Leu Leu Ile Val Leu Cys Pro Gln His 255 260 265	818
CCC ACC TGC AGC TGC ATC TTC AAG AAC TTC AAC CTC TTC' CTC CTC CTC Pro Thr Cys Ser Cys Ile Phe Lys Asn Phe Asn Leu Phe Leu Leu 270 275 280	866
ATC GTC CTC AGC TCC ACT GTT GAC CCC CTC ATC TAT GCT TTC CGC AGC Ile Val Leu Ser Ser Thr Val Asp Pro Leu Ile Tyr Ala Phe Arg Ser 285 290 295 300	914
CAG GAG CTC CGC ATG ACA CTC AAG GAG GTG CTG CTG TGC TCC TGG Gln Glu Leu Arg Met Thr Leu Lys Glu Val Leu Leu Cys Ser Trp 305 310 315	959
TGATCAGAGG GCGCTGGCA GAGGGTGACA GTGATATCCA GTGGCTGCA TCTGTGAGAC	1019
CACAGGTACT CATCCCTTCC TGATCTCCAT TTGTCTAAGG GTCGACAGGA TGAGCTTTAA	1079
AATAGAAACC CAGAGTGCCT GGGGCCAGGA GAAAGGGTAA CTGTGACTGC AGGGCTCACCC	1139
CAGGGCAGCT ACGGGAAGTG GAGGAGACAG GGATGGGAAC TCTAGCCCTG AGCAAGGGTC	1199
AGACCACAGG CTCCCTGAAGA GCTTCACCTC TCCCCACCTA CAGGCAACTC CTGCTCAAGC	1259
C	1260

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FIG. 2A

CCCGCATGTG	CCCGCCCTCA	ATGGAGGGCT	CTGAGAACGA	CTTTTAAAC	GCAGAGAAA	60
AGCTCCATTC	TTCCCAGACC	TCAGCGCAGC	CCTGGCCAG	GAAGGGAGGA	GACAGAGGCC	120
AGGACGGTCC	AGAGGGTGTG	AAATGTCCCTG	GGAAACCTGAG	CAGCAGCCAC	CAGGGAAQAG	180
GCAGGGAGGG	AGCTGAGGAC	CAGGCTTGGT	TGTGAGAACATC	CCTGAGCCCCA	GGCGGTTGAT	240
GCCAGGAGGT	GTCTGGACTG	GCTGGGCAT	GCTGGGCTG	ACCTGTCCAG	CCAGGGAGAG	300
GGTGTGAGGG	CAGATCTGGG	GGTGCCCCAGA	TGGAAGGAGG	CAGGCATGGG	GACACCCAAG	360
GCCCCCTGGC	AGCACCATGA	ACTAACCGAGG	ACACCTGGAG	GGGAGAACT	GTGGGGACCT	420
GGAGGCCTCC	AACGACTCCT	TCCTGCTTCC	TGGACAGGAC	T ATG GCT GTG CAG		473
				Met Ala Val Gln		
				1		
GGA TCC CAG AGA AGA	CTT CTG GGC TCC	CTC AAC TCC ACC CCC ACA	GCC			521
Gly Ser Gln Arg Arg	Leu Leu Gly Ser	Leu Asn Ser Thr Pro	Thr Ala			
5	10	15	20			
ATC CCC CAG CTG GGG CTG GCT GCC AAC CAG ACA	GGA CCC CGG TGC CTG					569
Ile Pro Gin Leu Gly Leu Ala Asn Gln Thr Gly Ala Arg Cys Leu						
25	30	35				
GAG GTG TCC ATC TCT GAC GGG CTC TTC CTC AGC CTG GGG CTG GTG AGC						617
Glu Val Ser Ile Ser Asp Gly Leu Phe Leu Ser Leu Gly Leu Val Ser						
40	45	50				
TTG GTG GAG AAC GCG CTG GTG GTC ACC ATC GCC AAG AAC CGG AAC						665
Leu Val Glu Asn Ala Leu Val Ala Thr Ile Ala Lys Asn Arg Asn						
55	60	65				
CTG CAC TCA CCC ATG TAC TGC TTC ATC TGC TGC CTG GCC TTG TCG GAC						713
Leu His Ser Pro Met Tyr Cys Phe Ile Cys Cys Leu Ala Leu Ser Asp						
70	75	80				
CTG CTG GTG AGC GGG ACG AAC GTG CTG GAG ACG GCC GTC ATC CTC CTG						761
Leu Leu Val Ser Gly Thr Asn Val Leu Glu Thr Ala Val Ile Leu Leu						
85	90	95	100			
CTG GAG GCC GGT GCA CTG GTG GCC CGG GCT GCG GTG CTG CAG CAG CTG						809
Leu Glu Ala Gly Ala Leu Val Ala Arg Ala Ala Val Leu Gln Gln Leu						
105	110	115				
GAC AAT GTC ATT GAC GTG ATC ACC TGC AGC TCC ATG CTG TCC AGC CTC						857
Asp Asn Val Ile Asp Val Ile Thr Cys Ser Ser Met Leu Ser Ser Leu						
120	125	130				
TGC TTC CTG GGC GCC ATC GCC GTG GAC CGC TAC ATC TCC ATC TTC TAC						905
Cys Phe Leu Gly Ala Ile Ala Val Asp Arg Tyr Ile Ser Ile Phe Tyr						
135	140	145				
GCA CTG CGC TAC CAC AGC ATC GTG ACC CTG CCG CGG GCG CCG CGA GCC						953
Ala Leu Arg Tyr His Ser Ile Val Thr Leu Pro Arg Ala Pro Arg Ala						
150	155	160				

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FIG. 2B

GTT GCG GCC ATC TGG GTG GCC AGT GTC GTC TTC AGC ACG CTC TTC ATC Val Ala Ala Ile Trp Val Ala Ser Val Val Phe Ser Thr Leu Phe Ile 165 170 175 180	1001
GCC TAC TAC GAC CAC GTG GCC GTC CTG CTG TGC CTC GTC GTC TTC TTC Ala Tyr Tyr Asp His Val Ala Val Leu Leu Cys Leu Val Val Phe Phe 185 190 195	1049
CTG GCT ATG CTG GTG CTC ATG GCC GTG CTG TAC GTC CAC ATG CTG GCC Leu Ala Met Leu Val Leu Met Ala Val Leu Tyr Val His Met Leu Ala 200 205 210	1097
CGG GCC TGC CAG CAC GCC CAG GGC ATC GCC CGG CTC CAC AAG AGG CAG Arg Ala Cys Gln His Ala Gln Gly Ile Ala Arg Leu His Lys Arg Gln 215 220 225	1145
CGC CGG GTC CAC CAG GGC TTT GGC CTT AAA GGC GCT GTC ACC CTC ACC Arg Pro Val His Gln Gly Phe Gly Leu Lys Gly Ala Val Thr Leu Thr 230 235 240	1193
ATC CTG CTG GGC ATT TTC TTC CTC TGC TGG GGC CCC TTC TTC CTG CAT Ile Leu Leu Gly Ile Phe Phe Leu Cys Trp Gly Pro Phe Phe Leu His 245 250 255 260	1241
CTC ACA CTC ATC GTC CTC TGC CCC GAG CAC CCC ACG TGC GGC TGC ATC Leu Thr Leu Ile Val Leu Cys Pro Glu His Pro Thr Cys Gly Cys Ile 265 270 275	1289
TTC AAG AAC TTC AAC CTC TTT CTC GCC CTC ATC ATC TGC AAT GCC ATC Phe Lys Asn Phe Asn Leu Phe Leu Ala Leu Ile Ile Cys Asn Ala Ile 280 285 290	1337
ATC GAC CCC CTC ATC TAC GCC TTC CAC AGC CAG GAG CTC CGC AGG ACG Ile Asp Pro Leu Ile Tyr Ala Phe His Ser Gln Glu Leu Arg Arg Thr 295 300 305	1385
CTC AAG GAG GTG CTG ACA TGC TCC TGG TGAGCGCGGT GCACCGCGCTT Leu Lys Glu Val Leu Thr Cys Ser Trp 310 315	1432
TAAGTGTGCT GGGCAGAGGG AGGTGGTGAT ATTGTGGTCT GGTTCCGTG TGACCCCTGGG CAGTTCCCTTA CCTCCCTGGT CCCCCGTTGT CAAAGAGGGAT GGACTAAATG ATCTCTGAAA GTGTTGAAGC GCGGACCCCTT CTGGGCAGGG AGGGGTCTG CAAAATCCA GGCAAGGACTT CTCACCAAGCA GTCGTGGGAA C	1492 1552 1612 1633

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FIG. 3A

ACAAACACTTT ATATATATTT TTATAAATGT AAGGGTACA AAGGTGCCAT TTTGTTACAT	60
GGATATAACCG TGTAGTGGTG AAGCCTGGGC TTTTAGTGTG TCTGTATCA GAATAACATA	120
CGTGTACCC ATAGGAATTT CTCATCACCC GCCCCCTCCA CCCTTCGAGT CTCCAATGTC	180
CATTCCACAC TCTATATCCA CGTGTATGCA TATAGCTCCA CATATAAGTG AGAACATGTA	240
GTATTTGACT TCCTCTTCT GAGTTATTT ACCTTGATAA TGCCCTCCAC TTCCATCCAT	300
GTTGCTGCAA AAGACATGAC CTTATTCTTT TTGATAGCTG GGGAGTACTC CATTGTGTAT	360
ATGTACCACA TTCTTATC CATTACCCCA TTGAGAACAC TTAGTTGATT CCATATCTTT	420
GCTATTGTCA CTAGTGCTGC AATAAACATA CATGTGCAGG CTCCCTCTAA TATACTGATT	480
TATATTTAT GGAGAGAGAT AGAGTTCTTA GCGAGTGTGC TGTTTATTT TAGTGTACTT	540
GCAACTAATA TTCTGTATAC TCCCTTTAGG TGATTGGAGA TTAACTTAG ATCTCCAGCA	600
AGTGCTACAA GAAGAAAAGA TCCTGAAGAA TCAATCAAGT TTCCGTGAAG TCAAGTCCAA	660
GTAACATCCC CGCCTTAACC ACAAGCAGGA GAA ATG AAG CAC ATT ATC AAC TCG	714
Met Lys His Ile Ile Asn Ser	
1 5	
TAT GAA AAC ATC AAC AAC ACA GCA AGA AAT AAT TCC GAC TGT CCT CGT	762
Tyr Glu Asn Ile Asn Asn Thr Ala Arg Asn Asn Ser Asp Cys Pro Arg	
10 15 20	
GTG GTT TTG CCG GAG GAG ATA TTT TTC ACA ATT TCC ATT GTT GGA GTT	810
Val Val Leu Pro Glu Glu Ile Phe Phe Thr Ile Ser Ile Val Gly Val	
25 30 35	
TTG GAG AAT CTG ATC GTC CTG CTG GCT GTG TTC AAG AAT AAG AAT CTC	858
Leu Glu Asn Leu Ile Val Leu Ala Val Phe Lys Asn Lys Asn Leu	
40 45 50 55	
CAG GCA CCC ATG TAC TTT TTC ATC TGT AGC TTG GCC ATA TCT GAT ATG	906
Gln Ala Pro Met Tyr Phe Phe Ile Cys Ser Leu Ala Ile Ser Asp Met	
60 65 70	
CTG GGC AGC CTA TAT AAG ATC TTG GAA AAT ATC CTG ATC ATA TTG AGA	954
Leu Gly Ser Leu Tyr Lys Ile Leu Glu Asn Ile Leu Ile Ile Leu Arg	
75 80 85	
AAC ATG GGC TAT CTC AAG CCA CGT GGC AGT TTT GAA ACC ACA GCC GAT	1002
Asn Met Gly Tyr Leu Lys Pro Arg Gly Ser Phe Glu Thr Thr Ala Asp	
90 95 100	
GAC ATC ATC GAC TCC CTG TTT GTC CTC TCC CTG CTT GGC TCC ATC TTC	1050
Asp Ile Ile Asp Ser Leu Phe Val Leu Ser Leu Leu Gly Ser Ile Phe	
105 110 115	

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FIG. 3B

AGC CTG TCT GTG ATT GCT GCG GAC CGC TAC ATC ACC ATC TTC CAC GCA Ser Leu Ser Val Ile Ala Ala Asp Arg Tyr Ile Thr Ile Phe His Ala 120 125 130 135	1098
CTG CGG TAC CAC AGC ATC GTG ACC ATG CGC CGC ACT GTG GTG GTG CTT Leu Arg Tyr His Ser Ile Val Thr Met Arg Arg Thr Val Val Val Leu 140 145 150	1146
ACG GTC ATC TGG ACG TTC TGC ACG GGG ACT GGC ATC ACC ATC ATG GTG ATC Thr Val Ile Trp Thr Phe Cys Thr Gly Thr Gly Ile Thr Met Val Ile 155 160 165	1194
TTC TCC CAT CAT GTG CCC ACA GTG ATC ACC TTC ACG TCG CTG TTC CCG Phe Ser His His Val Pro Thr Val Ile Thr Phe Thr Ser Leu Phe Pro 170 175 180	1242
CTG ATG CTG GTC TTC ATC CTG TGC CTC TAT GTG CAC ATG TTC CTG CTG Leu Met Leu Val Phe Ile Leu Cys Leu Tyr Val His Met Phe Leu Leu 185 190 195	1290
GCT CGA TCC CAC ACC AGG AAG ATC TCC ACC CTC CCC AGA GCC AAC ATG Ala Arg Ser His Thr Arg Lys Ile Ser Thr Leu Pro Arg Ala Asn Met 200 205 210 215	1338
AAA GGG GCC ATC ACA CTG ACC ATC CTG CTC GGG GTC TTC ATC TTC TGC Lys Gly Ala Ile Thr Leu Thr Ile Leu Leu Gly Val Phe Ile Phe Cys 220 225 230	1386
TGG GCC CCC TTT GTG CTT CAT GTC CTC TTG ATG ACA TTC TGC CCA AGT Trp Ala Pro Phe Val Leu His Val Leu Leu Met Thr Phe Cys Pro Ser 235 240 245	1434
AAC CCC TAC TGC GCC TGC TAC ATG TCT CTC TTC CAG GTG AAC GGC ATG Asn Pro Tyr Cys Ala Cys Tyr Met Ser Leu Phe Gln Val Asn Gly Met 250 255 260	1482
TTG ATC ATG TGC AAT GCC GTC ATT GAC CCC TTC ATA TAT GCC TTC CGG Leu Ile Met Cys Asn Ala Val Ile Asp Pro Phe Ile Tyr Ala Phe Arg 265 270 275	1530
AGC CCA GAG CTC AGG GAC GCA TTC AAA AAG ATG ATC TTC TGC AGC AGG Ser Pro Glu Leu Arg Asp Ala Phe Lys Lys Met Ile Phe Cys Ser Arg 280 285 290 295	1578
TAC TGG TAGAATGGCT GATCCCTGGT TTTAGAACCC ATGGGAATAA CGTTGCCAAG Tyr Trp	1634
TGCCAGAAATA GTGTAACATT CCAACAAATG CCAGTGCTCC TCACTGGCCT TCCCTCCCTA ATGGATGCAA GGATGACCCA CCAGCTAGTG TTTCTGAATA CTATGGCCAG GAACAGTCTA TTGTAGGGC AACTCTATTT GTGACTGGAC AGATAAAACG TGAGTAAAA GAAGGATAGA ATACAAAGTA TTAGGTACAA AAGTAATTAG GTTGCATTA CTTATGACAA ATGCATTACT TTTGCACCAA TCTAGTAAA CAGCAATAAA AATTCAAGGG CTTTGGGCTA AGGCAAAGAC TTGCTTCCCT GTGGACATTA ACAAGCCAGT TCTGAGGCGG CCTTTCCAGG TGGAGGCCAT TGCAGCCAAT TTCAGAGT	1694 1754 1814 1874 1934 1994 2012

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FIG. 4A

GGGGCCAGAA AGTTCCGTGCT TCAGAGCAGA AGATCTTCAG CAAGAACTAC AAAGAAGAAA	60
AGATTCCTGGA GAATCAATCA AGTTTCCGTGCT CAAGTTCCAG TAACGTTCT GTCTTAACTG	120
CACACAGGAA AG ATG AAA CAC ATT CTC AAT CTG TAT GAA AAC ATC AAC Met Lys His Ile Leu Asn Leu Tyr Glu Asn Ile Asn	168
1 5 10	
AGT ACA GCA AGA AAT AAC TCA GAC TGT CCT GCT GTG ATT TTG CCA GAA Ser Thr Ala Arg Asn Asn Ser Asp Cys Pro Ala Val Ile Leu Pro Glu	216
15 20 25	
GAG ATA TTT TTC ACA GTA TCC ATT GTT GGG GTT TTG GAG AAC CTG ATG Glu Ile Phe Phe Thr Val Ser Ile Val Gly Val Leu Glu Asn Leu Met	264
30 35 40	
GTC CTT CTG GCT GTG GCC AAG AAT AAG AGT CTT CAG TCG CCC ATG TAC Val Leu Leu Ala Val Ala Lys Asn Lys Ser Leu Gln Ser Pro Met Tyr	312
45 50 55 60	
TTT TTC ATC TGC AGC TTG GCT ATT TCC GAT ATG CTG GGG AGC CTG TAC Phe Phe Ile Cys Ser Leu Ala Ile Ser Asp Met Leu Gly Ser Leu Tyr	360
65 70 75	
AAG ATT TTG GAA AAC GTT CTG ATC ATG TTC AAA AAC ATG GGT TAC CTC Lys Ile Leu Glu Asn Val Leu Ile Met Phe Lys Asn Met Gly Tyr Leu	408
80 85 90	
GAG CCT CGA GGC AGT TTT GAA AGC ACA GCA GAT GAT GTG GTG GAC TCC Glu Pro Arg Gly Ser Phe Glu Ser Thr Ala Asp Asp Val Val Asp Ser	456
95 100 105	
CTG TTC ATC CTC TCC CTT CTC GGC TCC ATC TGC AGC CTG TCT GTG ATT Leu Phe Ile Leu Ser Leu Leu Gly Ser Ile Cys Ser Leu Ser Val Ile	504
110 115 120	
GCC GCT GAC CGC TAC ATC ACA ATC TTC CAC GCT CTG CAG TAC CAC CGC Ala Ala Asp Arg Tyr Ile Thr Ile Phe His Ala Leu Gln Tyr His Arg	552
125 130 135 140	
ATC ATG ACC CCC GCA CCG TGC CCT CGT CAT CTG ACG GTC CTC TGG GCA Ile Met Thr Pro Ala Pro Cys Pro Arg His Leu Thr Val Leu Trp Ala	600
145 150 155	
GGC TGC ACA GGC AGT GGC ATT ACC ATC GTG ACC TTC TCC CAT CAC GTC Gly Cys Thr Gly Ser Gly Ile Thr Ile Val Thr Phe Ser His His Val	648
160 165 170	
CCC ACA GTG ATC GCC TTC ACA GCG CTG TTC CCG CTG ATG CTG GCC TTC Pro Thr Val Ile Ala Phe Thr Ala Leu Phe Pro Leu Met Leu Ala Phe	696
175 180 185	
ATC CTG TGC CTC TAC GTG CAC ATG TTC CTG CTG GCC CGC TCC CAC ACC Ile Leu Cys Leu Tyr Val His Met Phe Leu Leu Ala Arg Ser His Thr	744
190 195 200	
AGG AGG ACC CCC TCC CTT CCC AAA GCC AAC ATG AGA GGG GCC GTC ACA Arg Arg Thr Pro Ser Leu Pro Lys Ala Asn Met Arg Gly Ala Val Thr	792
205 210 215 220	

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FIG. 4B

CTG ACT GTC CTG CTC GGG GTC TTC ATT TTC TGT TGG GCA CCC TTT GTC Leu Thr Val Leu Leu Gly Val Phe Ile Phe Cys Trp Ala Pro Phe Val 225 230 235	840
CTT CAT GTC CTC TTG ATG ACA TTC TGC CCA GCT GAC CCC TAC TGT GCC Leu His Val Leu Leu Met Thr Phe Cys Pro Ala Asp Pro Tyr Cys Ala 240 245 250	888
TGC TAC ATG TCC CTC TTC CAG GTG AAT GGT GTG TTG ATC ATG TGT AAT Cys Tyr Met Ser Leu Phe Gln Val Asn Gly Val Leu Ile Met Cys Asn 255 260 265	936
GCC ATC ATC GAC CCC TTC ATA TAT GCC TTT CGG AGC CCA GAG CTC AGG Ala Ile Ile Asp Pro Phe Ile Tyr Ala Phe Arg Ser Pro Glu Leu Arg 270 275 280	984
GTC GCA TTC AAA AAG ATG GTT ATC TGC AAC TGT TAC CAG TAGAATGATT Val Ala Phe Lys Lys Met Val Ile Cys Asn Cys Tyr Gln 285 290 295	1033
GGTCCCTGAT TTTAGGAGCC ACAGGGATAT ACTGTCAGGG ACAGAGTAGC GTGACAGACC	1093
AACAAACACTA GGACT	1108

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FIG. 5A

GGCTGTAAC	GTAGCAACCG	GTGTTGGGTG	GGGATGAGAA	GAGACCAGAG	AGAGAGAGGG	60
TCAGAGCGAC	AGGGGATGAG	ACAGGCTGGT	CAGAGTCTGC	ACTGATTGTT	GGAGACGCAA	120
AGGAAAGTTT	TTTCTATGTC	TCCAACCTCC	CCCTCCTCCC	CCGTTTCTCT	CTGGAGAAAC	180
TAAAATCTAG	ACTGGACAGC	ATCCACAAGA	GAAGCACCTA	GAAGAAGATT	TTTTTTCC	240
AGCAGCTTGC	TCAGGACCCCT	GCAGGAGCTG	CAGCCGGAAC	TGGTCCC GCC	GATAACC	297
ATG AAC TCT TCC TGC CCG TCC TCT TAT CCG ACG CTG CCT AAC	Met Asn Ser Ser Cys Cys Pro Ser Ser	Ser Tyr Pro Thr Leu Pro Asn				345
1	5	10	15			
CTC TCC CAG CAC CCT GCA GCC CCC TCT GCC AGC AAC CGG AGT GGC AGT	Leu Ser Gln His Pro Ala Ala Pro Ser Ala Ser Asn Arg Ser Gly Ser					393
20	25	30				
GGG TTC TGC GAG CAG GTT TTC ATC AAG CCA GAG GTC TTC CTG GCA CTG	Gly Phe Cys Glu Gln Val Phe Ile Lys Pro Glu Val Phe Leu Ala Leu					441
35	40	45				
GGC ATC GTC AGT CTG ATG GAA AAC ATC CTG GTG ATC CTG GCT GTG GTG	Gly Ile Val Ser Leu Met Glu Asn Ile Leu Val Ile Leu Ala Val Val					489.
50	55	60				
AGG AAC GGC AAC CTG CAC TCC CCC ATG TAC TTC TTC CTG CTG AGC CTG	Arg Asn Gly Asn Leu His Ser Pro Met Tyr Phe Phe Leu Leu Ser Leu					537
65	70	75	80			
CTG CAG GCC GAC ATG CTG GTG AGC CTG TCC AAC TCC CTG GAG ACC ATC	Leu Gln Ala Asp Met Leu Val Ser Leu Ser Asn Ser Leu Glu Thr Ile					585
85	90	95				
ATG ATC GTG GTT ATC AAC AGC GAC TCC CTG ACC TTG GAG GAC CAA TTC	Met Ile Val Ile Asn Ser Asp Ser Leu Thr Leu Glu Asp Gln Phe					633
100	105	110				
ATC CAG CAC ATG GAC AAC ATC TTC GAC TCT ATG ATC TGC ATC TCC CTG	Ile Gln His Met Asp Asn Ile Phe Asp Ser Met Ile Cys Ile Ser Leu					681
115	120	125				
GTG GCC TCC ATC TGC AAC CTC CTG GCC ATC GCC GTG GAC AGG TAC GTC	Val Ala Ser Ile Cys Asn Leu Ala Ile Ala Val Asp Arg Tyr Val					729
130	135	140				
ACC ATC TTC TAT GCC CTC CGT TAC CAC AGC ATC ATG ACG GTT AGG AAA	Thr Ile Phe Tyr Ala Leu Arg Tyr His Ser Ile Met Thr Val Arg Lys					777
145	150	155	160			
GCC CTC TCC TTG ATC GTG GCC ATC TGG GTC TGC TGT GGC ATC TGC GGC	Ala Leu Ser Leu Ile Val Ala Ile Trp Val Cys Cys Gly Ile Cys Gly					825
165	170	175				
GTG ATG TTC ATC GTC TAC TCC GAG AGC AAG ATG GTC ATC GTG TGC CTC	Val Met Phe Ile Val Tyr Ser Glu Ser Lys Met Val Ile Val Cys Leu					873
180	185	190				

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FIG. 5B

ATC ACC ATG TTC TTC GCC ATG GTG CTC CTC ATG GGC ACC CTG TAC ATC Ile Thr Met Phe Phe Ala Met Val Leu Leu Met Gly Thr Leu Tyr Ile 195 200 205	921
CAC ATG TTC CTC TTC GCC AGG CTG CAC GTC CAG CGC ATC GCG GCA CTG His Met Phe Leu Phe Ala Arg Leu His Val Gln Arg Ile Ala Ala Leu 210 215 220	969
CCA CCT GCT GAC GGG GTA GCC CCG CAG CAC TCG TGC ATG AAG GGG Pro Pro Ala Asp Gly Val Ala Pro Gln Gln His Ser Cys Met Lys Gly 225 230 235 240	1017
GCC GTC ACC ATC ACC ATC CTG CTG GGG GTT TTC ATC TTC TGC TGG GCG Ala Val Thr Ile Leu Leu Gly Val Phe Ile Phe Cys Trp Ala 245 250 255	1065
CCT TTC TTC CTC CAC CTG GTC CTC ATC ATC ACC TGC CCC ACC AAC CCC Pro Phe Phe Leu His Leu Val Leu Ile Ile Thr Cys Pro Thr Asn Pro 260 265 270	1113
TAC TGC ATC TGC TAC ACG GCG CAC TTC AAC ACC TAC CTG GTT CTC ATC Tyr Cys Ile Cys Tyr Thr Ala His Phe Asn Thr Tyr Leu Val Leu Ile 275 280 285	1161
ATG TGC AAC TCT GTC ATC GAC CCC CTC ATC TAC GCC TTC CGC AGC CTG Met Cys Asn Ser Val Ile Asp Pro Leu Ile Tyr Ala Phe Arg Ser Leu 290 295 300	1209
GAG CTG CGA AAC ACC TTC AAG GAG ATT CTC TGC GGT TGC AAT GGC ATG Glu Leu Arg Asn Thr Phe Lys Glu Ile Leu Cys Gly Cys Asn Gly Met 305 310 315 320	1257
AAC GTG GGC TAGGAACCCC CGAGGAGGTG TTCCACGGCT AGCCAAGAGA Asn Val Gly	1306
 GAAAAGCAAT GCTCAGGTGA GACACAGAAG GG	 1338

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FIG. 6A

AGCTTCCGAG AGGCAGCCGA TGTGAGCATG TGCGCACAGA TTCTGCTCCC AATGGCATGG	60
CAGCTTCAAG GAAAATTATT TTGAACAGAC TTGAATGCAT AAGATTAAG TTAAAGCAGA	120
AGTGAGAAC AAGAAAGCAGA GACCGAGACTC TTTCAACTGA GAATGAATAT TTTGAAGCCC	180
AAGATTTAA AGTGATGATG ATTAGAGTCG TACCTAAAAG AGACTAAAAA CTCCATGTCA	240
AGCTCTGGAC TTGTGACATT TACTCACAGC AGGCATGGCA ATTTTAGCCT CACAACCTTC	300
AGACAGATAA AGACTTGGAG GAAATAACTG AGACGACTCC CTGACCCAGG AGGTTAAATC	360
AATTCAAGGGG GACACTGGAA TTCTCCTGCC AGC ATG GTG AAC TCC ACC CAC CGT Met Val Asn Ser Thr His Arg	414
1 5	
GGG ATG CAC ACT TCT CTG CAC CTC TGG AAC CGC AGC AGT TAC AGA CTG Gly Met His Thr Ser Leu His Leu Trp Asn Arg Ser Ser Tyr Arg Leu	462
10 15 20	
CAC AGC AAT GCC AGT GAG TCC CTT GGA AAA GGC TAC TCT GAT GGA GGG His Ser Asn Ala Ser Glu Ser Leu Gly Lys Gly Tyr Ser Asp Gly Gly	510
25 30 35	
TGC TAC GAG CAA CTT TTT GTC TCT CCT GAG GTG TTT GTG ACT CTG GGT Cys Tyr Glu Gln Leu Ser Pro Glu Val Phe Val Thr Leu Gly	558
40 45 50 55	
GTC ATC AGC TTG TTG GAG AAT ATC TTA GTG ATT GTG GCA ATA GCC AAG Val Ile Ser Leu Leu Glu Asn Ile Leu Val Ile Val Ala Ile Ala Lys	606
60 65 70	
AAC AAG AAT CTG CAT TCA CCC ATG TAC TTT TTC ATC TGC AGC TTG GCT Asn Lys Asn Leu His Ser Pro Met Tyr Phe Phe Ile Cys Ser Leu Ala	654
75 80 85	
GTG GCT GAT ATG CTG GTG AGC GTT TCA AAT GGA TCA GAA ACC ATT ATC Val Ala Asp Met Leu Val Ser Val Asn Gly Ser Glu Thr Ile Ile	702
90 95 100	
ATC ACC CTA TTA AAC AGT ACA GAT ACG GAT GCA CAG AGT TTC ACA GTG Ile Thr Leu Leu Asn Ser Thr Asp Thr Asp Ala Gln Ser Phe Thr Val	750
105 110 115	
AAT ATT GAT AAT GTC ATT GAC TCG GTG ATC TGT AGC TCC TTG CTT GCA Asn Ile Asp Asn Val Ile Asp Ser Val Ile Cys Ser Ser Leu Leu Ala	798
120 125 130 135	
TCC ATT TGC AGC CTG CTT TCA ATT GCA GTG GAC AGG TAC TTT ACT ATC Ser Ile Cys Ser Leu Leu Ser Ile Ala Val Asp Arg Tyr Phe Thr Ile	846
140 145 150	
TTC TAT GCT CTC CAG TAC CAT AAC ATT ATG ACA GTT AAG CGG GTT GGG Phe Tyr Ala Leu Gln Tyr His Asn Ile Met Thr Val Lys Arg Val Gly	894
155 160 165	
ATC AGC ATA AGT TGT ATC TGG GCA GCT TGC ACG GTT TCA GGC ATT TTG Ile Ser Ile Ser Cys Ile Trp Ala Ala Cys Thr Val Ser Gly Ile Leu	942
170 175 180	

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FIG. 6B

TTC ATC ATT TAC TCA GAT AGT AGT GCT GTC ATC ATC TGC CTC ATC ACC Phe Ile Ile Tyr Ser Asp Ser Ser Ala Val Ile Ile Cys Leu Ile Thr 185 190 195	990
ATG TTC TTC ACC ATG CTG GCT CTC ATG GCT TCT CTC TAT GTC CAC CTG Met Phe Phe Thr Met Leu Ala Leu Met Ala Ser Leu Tyr Val His Leu 200 205 210 215	1038
TTC CTG ATG GCC AGG CTT CAC ATT AAG AGG ATT GCT GTC CTC CCC GGC Phe Leu Met Ala Arg Leu His Ile Lys Arg Ile Ala Val Leu Pro Gly 220 225 230	1086
ACT GGT GCC ATC CGC CAA GGT GCC AAT ATG AAG GGA GCG ATT ACC TTG Thr Gly Ala Ile Arg Gln Gly Ala Asn Met Lys Gly Ala Ile Thr Leu 235 240 245	1134
ACC ATC CTG ATT GGC GTC TTT GTT GTC TGC TGG GCC CCA TTC TTC CTC Thr Ile Leu Ile Gly Val Phe Val Val Cys Trp Ala Pro Phe Phe Leu 250 255 260	1182
CAC TTA ATA TTC TAC ATC TCT TGT CCT CAG AAT CCA TAT TGT GTG TGC His Leu Ile Phe Tyr Ile Ser Cys Pro Gln Asn Pro Tyr Cys Val Cys 265 270 275	1230
TTC ATG TCT CAC TTT AAC TTG TAT CTC ATA CTG ATC ATG TGT AAT TCA Phe Met Ser His Phe Asn Leu Tyr Leu Ile Leu Ile Met Cys Asn Ser 280 285 290 295	1278
ATC ATC GAT CCT CTG ATT TAT GCA CTC CGG AGT CAA GAA CTG AGG AAA Ile Ile Asp Pro Leu Ile Tyr Ala Leu Arg Ser Gln Glu Leu Arg Lys 300 305 310	1326
ACC TTC AAA GAG ATC ATC TCT TAT CCC CTG GGA GGC CTT TGT GAC Thr Phe Lys Glu Ile Ile Ser Ser Tyr Pro Leu Gly Gly Leu Cys Asp 315 320 325	1374
TTG TCT AGC AGA TAT TAAATGGGGA CAGAGCACGC AATATAGGAA CATCCATAAG Leu Ser Ser Arg Tyr 330	1429
AGACTTTTC ACTCTTACCC TACCTGAATA TTCTACTTCT GCAACAGCTT TCTCTTCCGT	1489
GTAGGGTACT GGTTGAGATA TCCATTGTGT AAATTTAACG CTATGATTIT TAATGAGAAA	1549
AAATGCCAG TCTCTGTATT ATTTCCAATC TCATGCTACT TTTTGGCCA TAAAATATGA	1609
ATCTATGTTA TAGGTTGTAG GCACTGTGGA TTTACAAAAA GAAAAGTCCT TATTAAAAAGC	1669
TT	1671

FIG. 7A

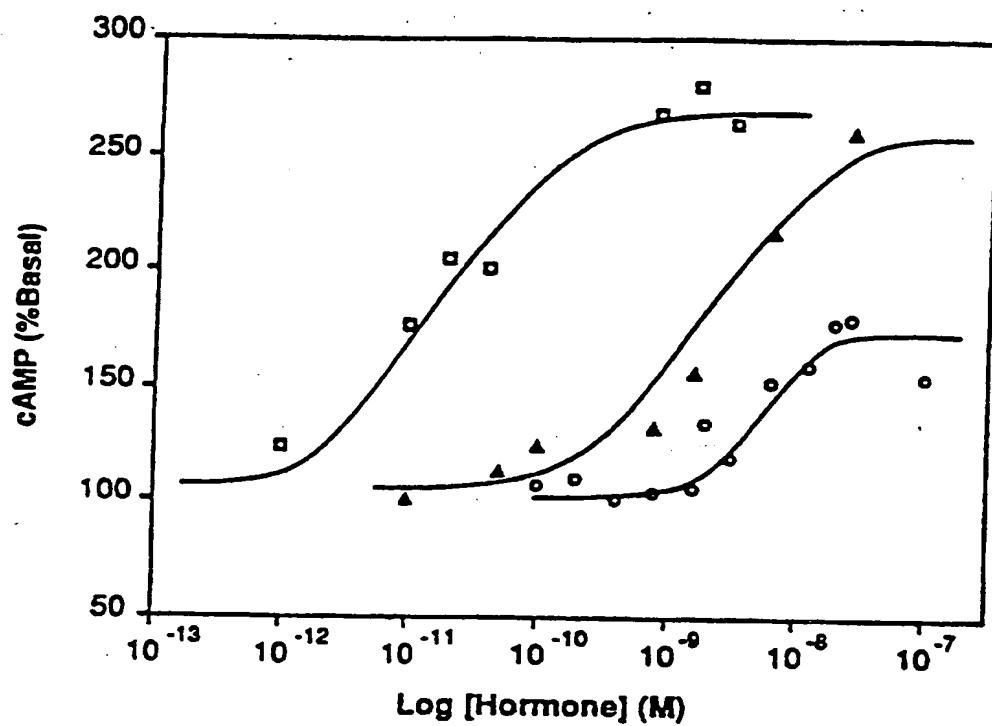
ATG AAC TCC TCC ACC CTG ACT GTA TTG AAT CTT ACC CTG AAC GCC Met Asn Ser Ser Ser Thr Leu Thr Val Leu Asn Leu Thr Leu Asn Ala 1 5 10 15	48
TCA GAG GAT GGC ATT TTA GGA TCA AAT GTC AAG AAC AAG TCT TTG GCC Ser Glu Asp Gly Ile Leu Gly Ser Asn Val Lys Asn Lys Ser Leu Ala 20 25 30	96
TGT GAA GAA ATG GGC ATT GCC GTG GAG GTG TTC CTG ACC CTG GGT CTC Cys Glu Glu Met Gly Ile Ala Val Glu Val Phe Leu Thr Leu Gly Leu 35 40 45	144
GTC AGC CTC TTA GAG AAC ATC CTG GTC ATT GGG GCC ATA GTA AAG AAC Val Ser Leu Leu Glu Asn Ile Leu Val Ile Gly Ala Ile Val Lys Asn 50 55 60	192
AAA AAC CTG CAC TCA CCC ATG TAC TTC TTT GTG GGC AGC TTA GCC GTG Lys Asn Leu His Ser Pro Met Tyr Phe Phe Ser Leu Ala Val 65 70 75 80	240
GCC GAC ATG CTG GTG AGC ATG TCC AAT GCC TGG GAG ACT GTC ACC ATA Ala Asp Met Leu Val Ser Met Ser Asn Ala Trp Glu Thr Val Thr Ile 85 90 95	288
TAC TTG CTA AAT AAT AAA CAC CTG GTG ATA GCC GAC ACC TTT GTG CGA Tyr Leu Leu Asn Asn Lys His Leu Val Ile Ala Asp Thr Phe Val Arg 100 105 110	336
CAC ATC GAC AAC GTG TTC GAC TCC ATG ATC TGC ATC TCT GTG GTG GCC His Ile Asp Asn Val Phe Asp Ser Met Ile Cys Ile Ser Val Val Ala 115 120 125	384
TCG ATG TGC AGT TTG CTG GCC ATT GCG GTG GAT AGG TAC ATC ACC ATC Ser Met Cys Ser Leu Leu Ala Ile Ala Val Asp Arg Tyr Ile Thr Ile 130 135 140	432
TTC TAT GCC TTG CGC TAC CAC CAC ATC ATG ACC GCG AGG CGC TCG GGG Phe Tyr Ala Leu Arg Tyr His His Ile Met Thr Ala Arg Arg Ser Gly 145 150 155 160	480
GTG ATC ATC GCC TGC ATT TGG ACC TTC TGC ATA AGC TGC GGC ATT GTT Val Ile Ile Ala Cys Ile Trp Thr Phe Cys Ile Ser Cys Gly Ile Val 165 170 175	528
TTC ATC ATC TAC TAT GAG TCC AAG TAT GTG ATC ATT TGC CTC ATC TCC Phe Ile Ile Tyr Tyr Glu Ser Lys Tyr Val Ile Ile Cys Leu Ile Ser 180 185 190	576
ATG TTC TTC ACC ATG CTG TTC TTC ATG GTG TCT CTG TAT ATA CAC ATG Met Phe Phe Thr Met Leu Phe Phe Met Val Ser Leu Tyr Ile His Met 195 200 205	624
TTC CTC CTG GCC CGG AAC CAT GTC AAG CGG ATA GCA GCT TCC CCC AGA Phe Leu Leu Ala Arg Asn His Val Lys Arg Ile Ala Ala Ser Pro Arg 210 215 220	672
TAC AAC TCC GTG AGG CAA AGG ACC AGC ATG AAG GGG GCT ATT ACC CTC Tyr Asn Ser Val Arg Gln Arg Thr Ser Met Lys Gly Ala Ile Thr Leu 225 230 235 240	720

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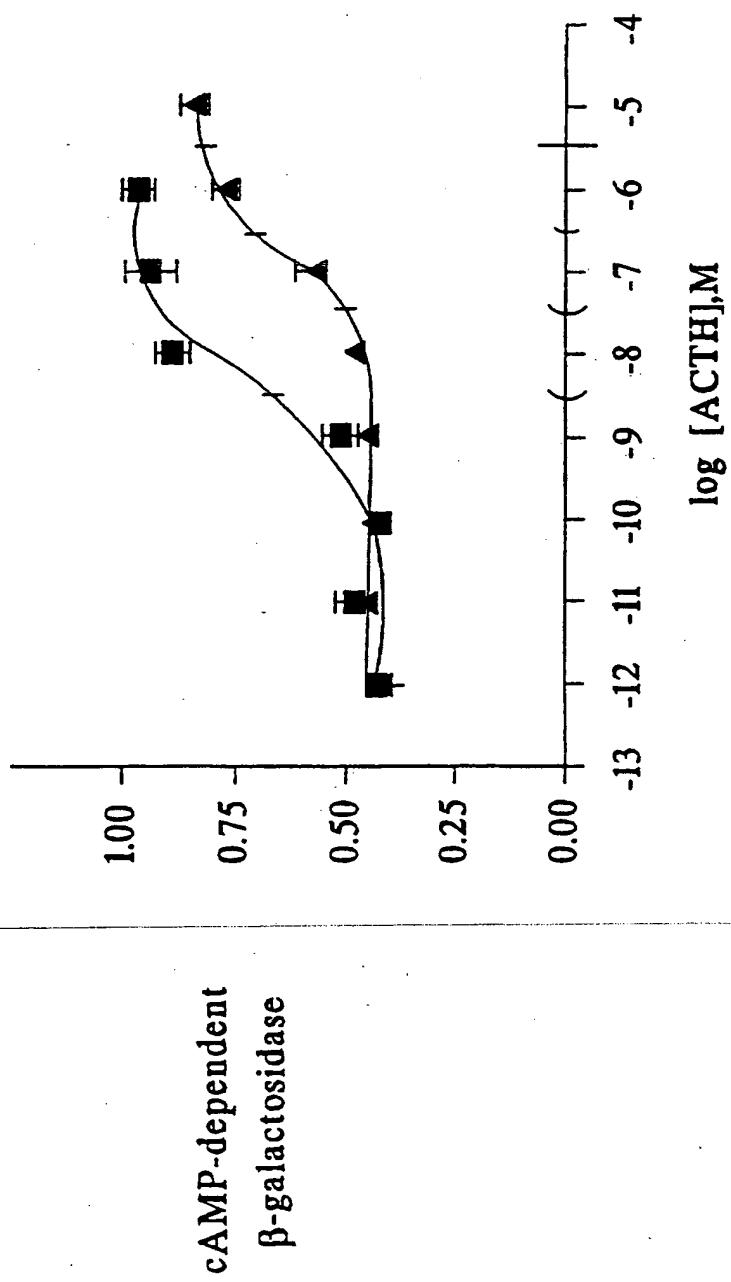
FIG. 7B

ACC ATG CTA CTG GGG ATT TTC ATT GTC TGC TGG TCT CCC TTC TTT CTT	768
Thr Met Leu Leu Gly Ile Phe Ile Val Cys Trp Ser Pro Phe Phe Leu	
245 250 255	
CAC CTT ATC TTA ATG ATC TCC TGC CCT CAG AAC GTC TAC TGC TCT TGC	816
His Leu Ile Leu Met Ile Ser Cys Pro Gln Asn Val Tyr Cys Ser Cys	
260 265 270	
TTT ATG TCT TAC TTC AAC ATG TAC CTT ATA CTC ATC ATG TGC AAC TCC	864
Phe Met Ser Tyr Phe Asn Met Tyr Leu Ile Leu Ile Met Cys Asn Ser	
275 280 285	
GTG ATC GAT CCT CTC ATC TAC GCC CTC CGC AGC CAA GAG ATG CGG AGG	912
Val Ile Asp Pro Leu Ile Tyr Ala Leu Arg Ser Gln Glu Met Arg Arg	
290 295 300	
ACC TTT AAG GAG ATC GTC TGT TGT CAC GGA TTC CGG CGA CCT TGT AGG	960
Thr Phe Lys Glu Ile Val Cys Cys His Gly Phe Arg Arg Pro Cys Arg	
305 310 315 320	
CTC CTT GGC GGG TAT TAA	978
Leu Leu Gly Gly Tyr *	
325	

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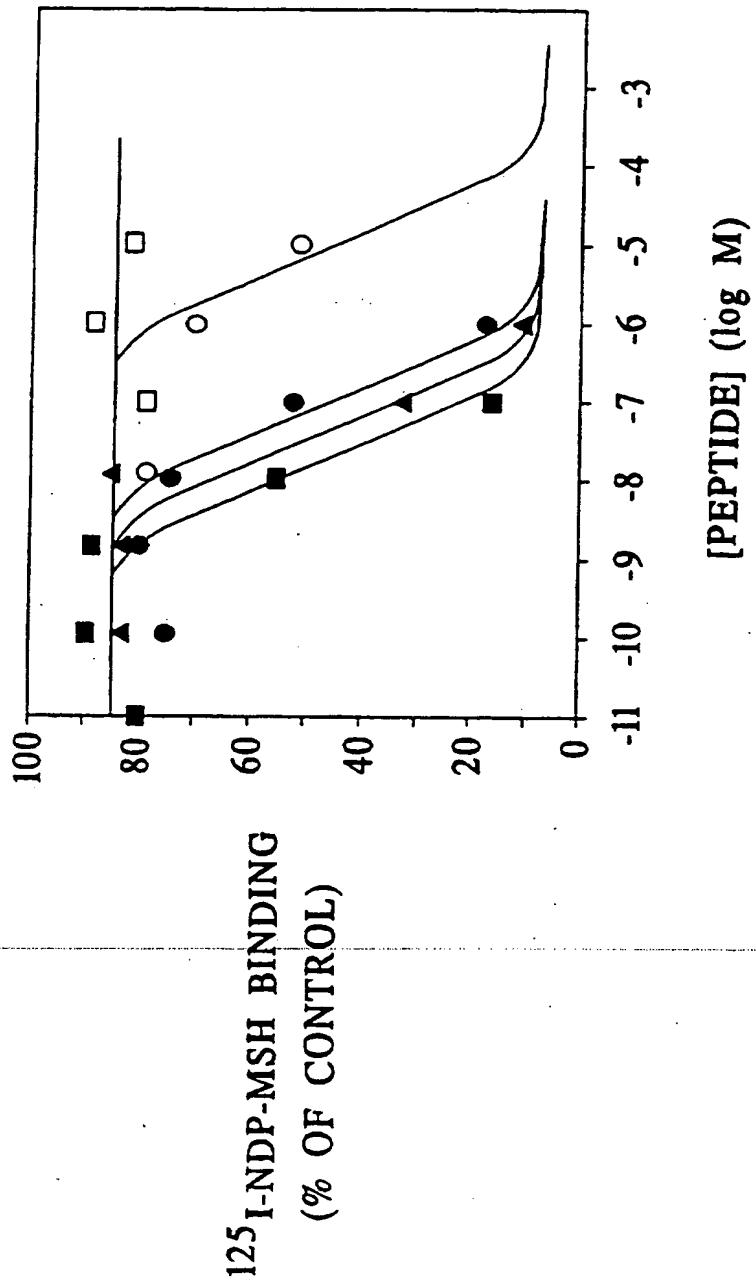
FIG. 8

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FIG. 9

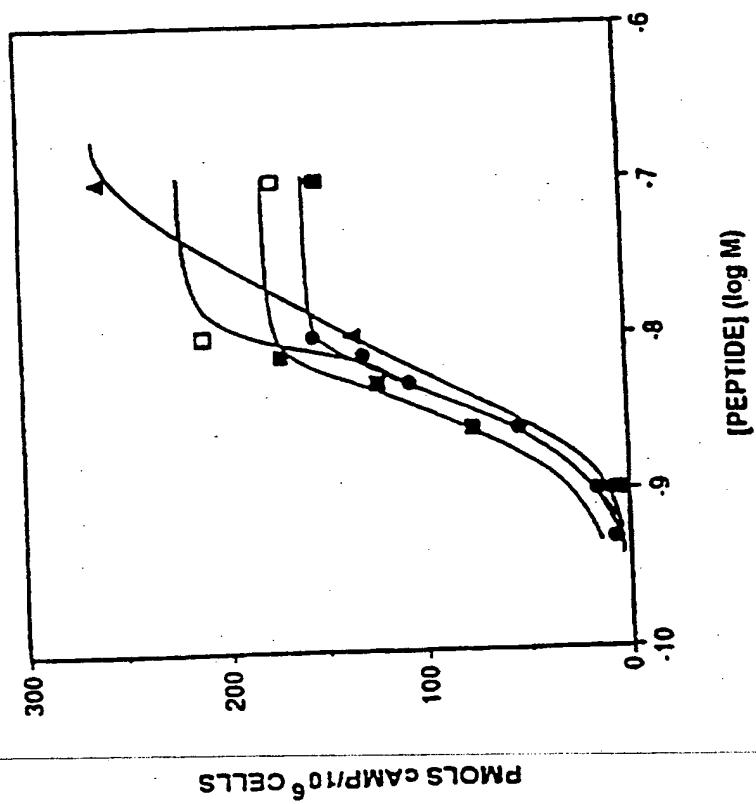
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FIG. 10



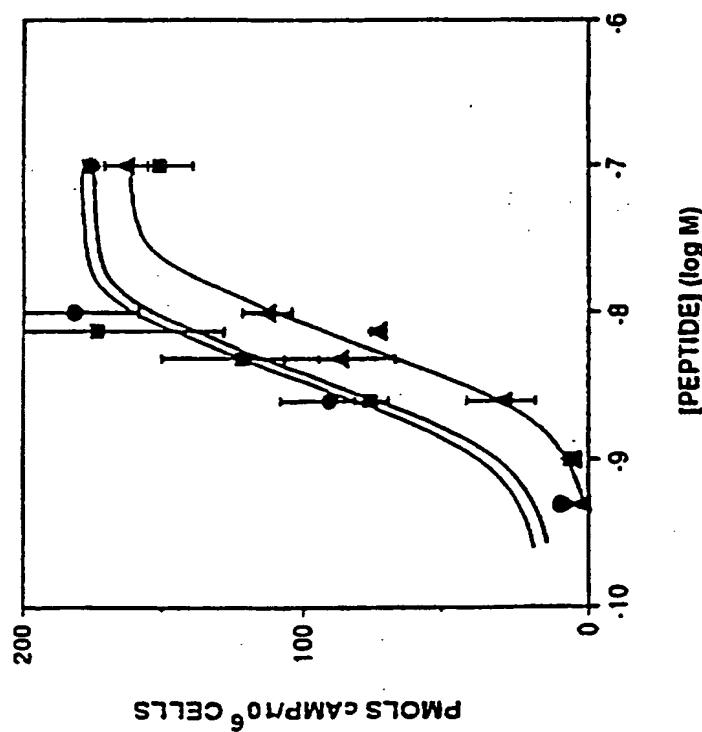
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FIG. IIIA



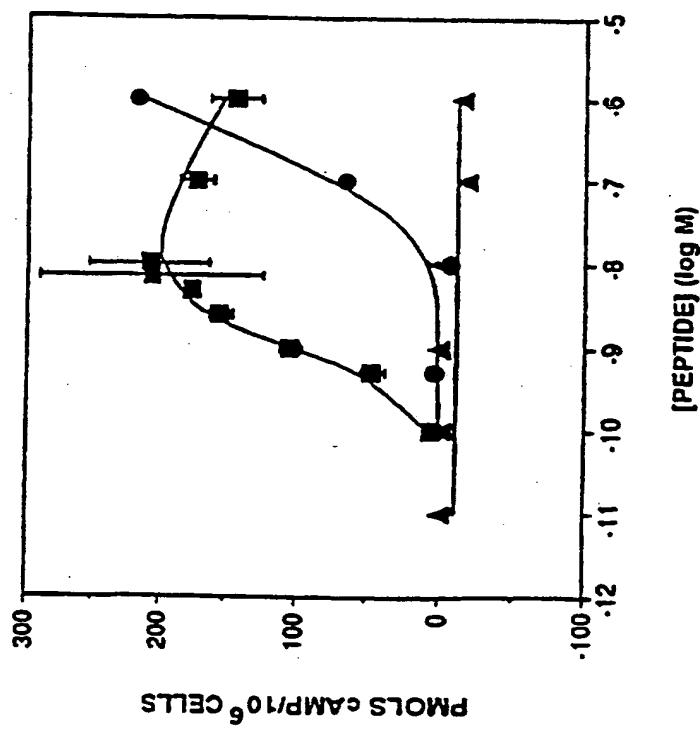
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FIG. 11B



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FIG. 11C



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FIG. 12

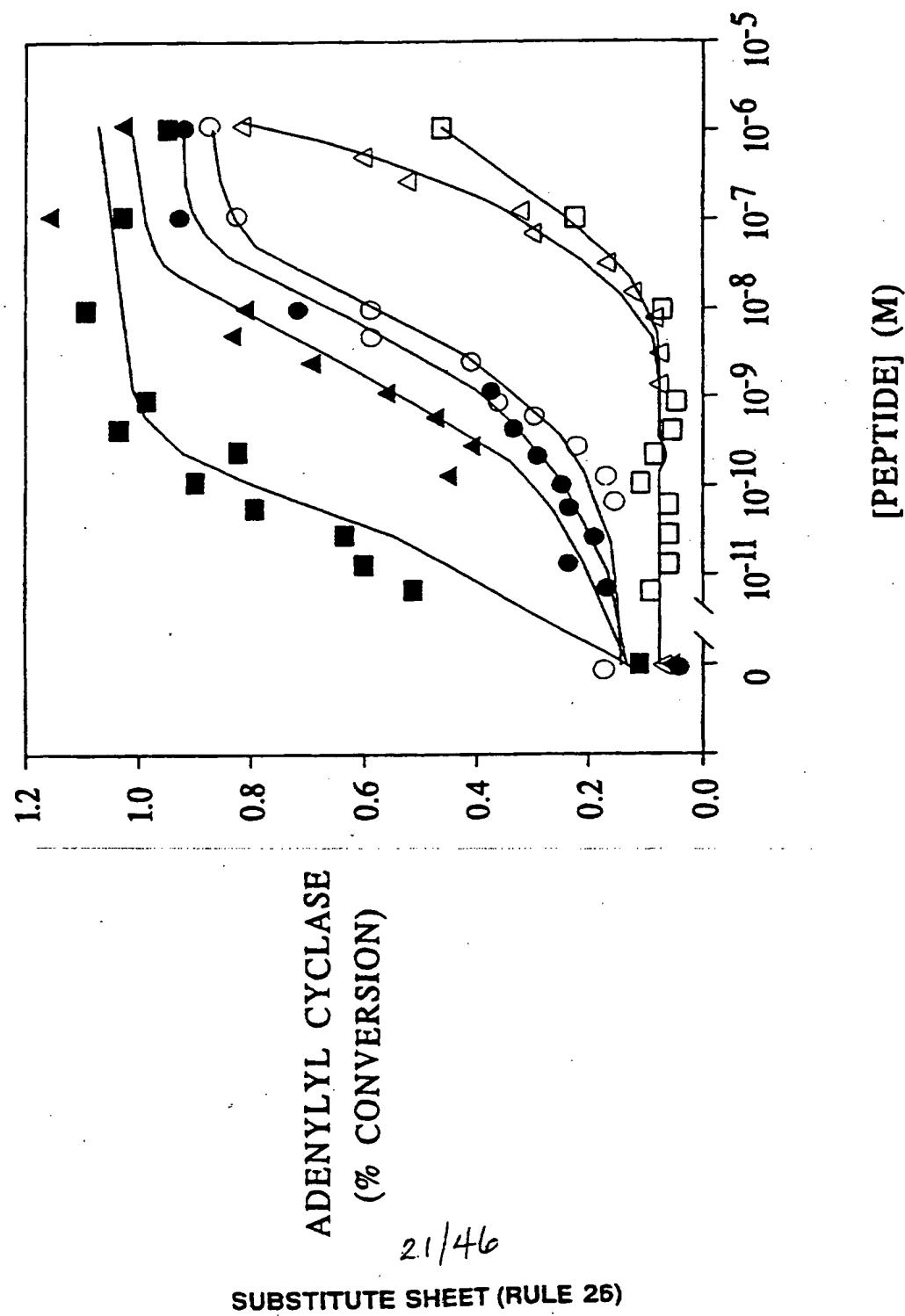
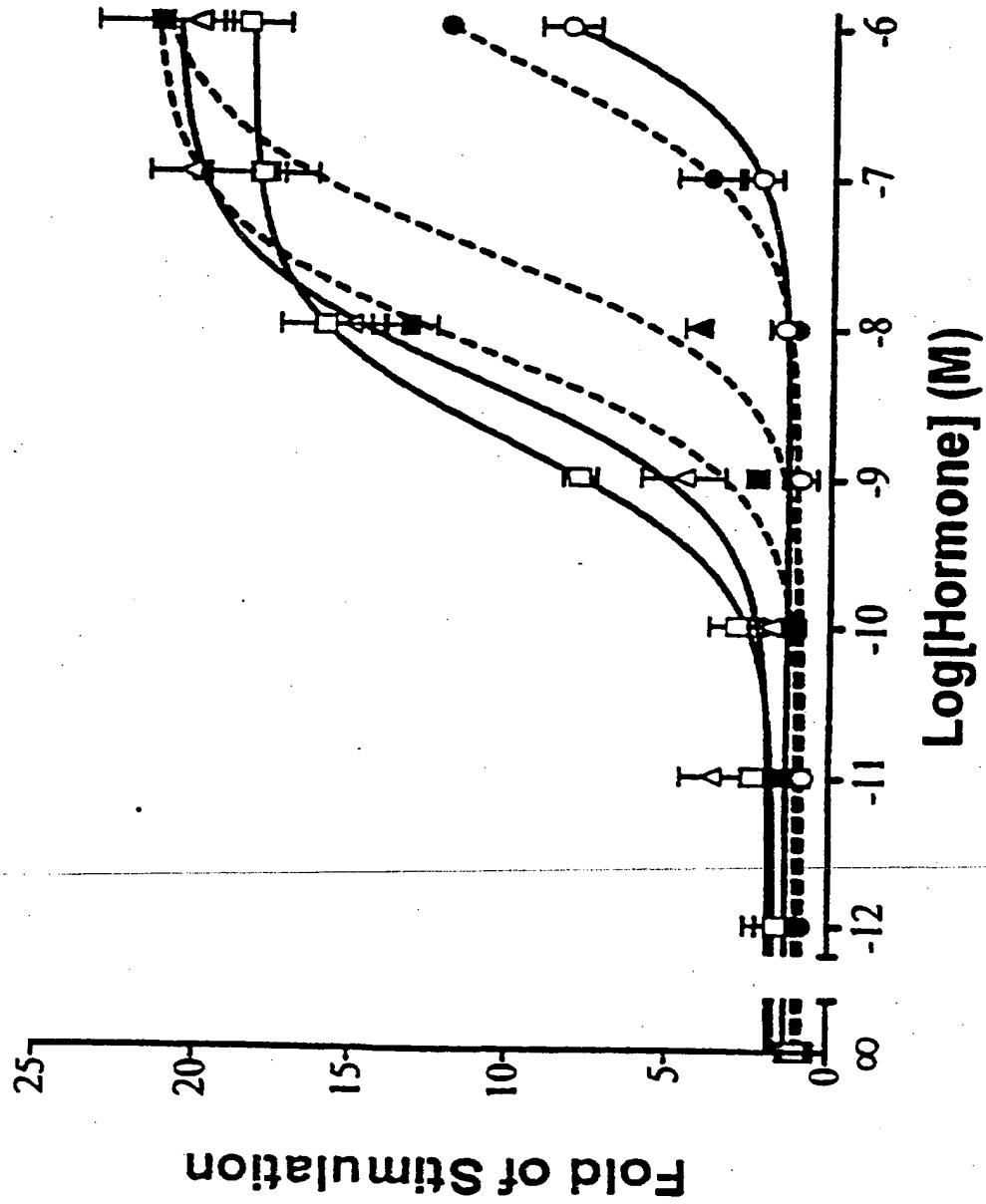
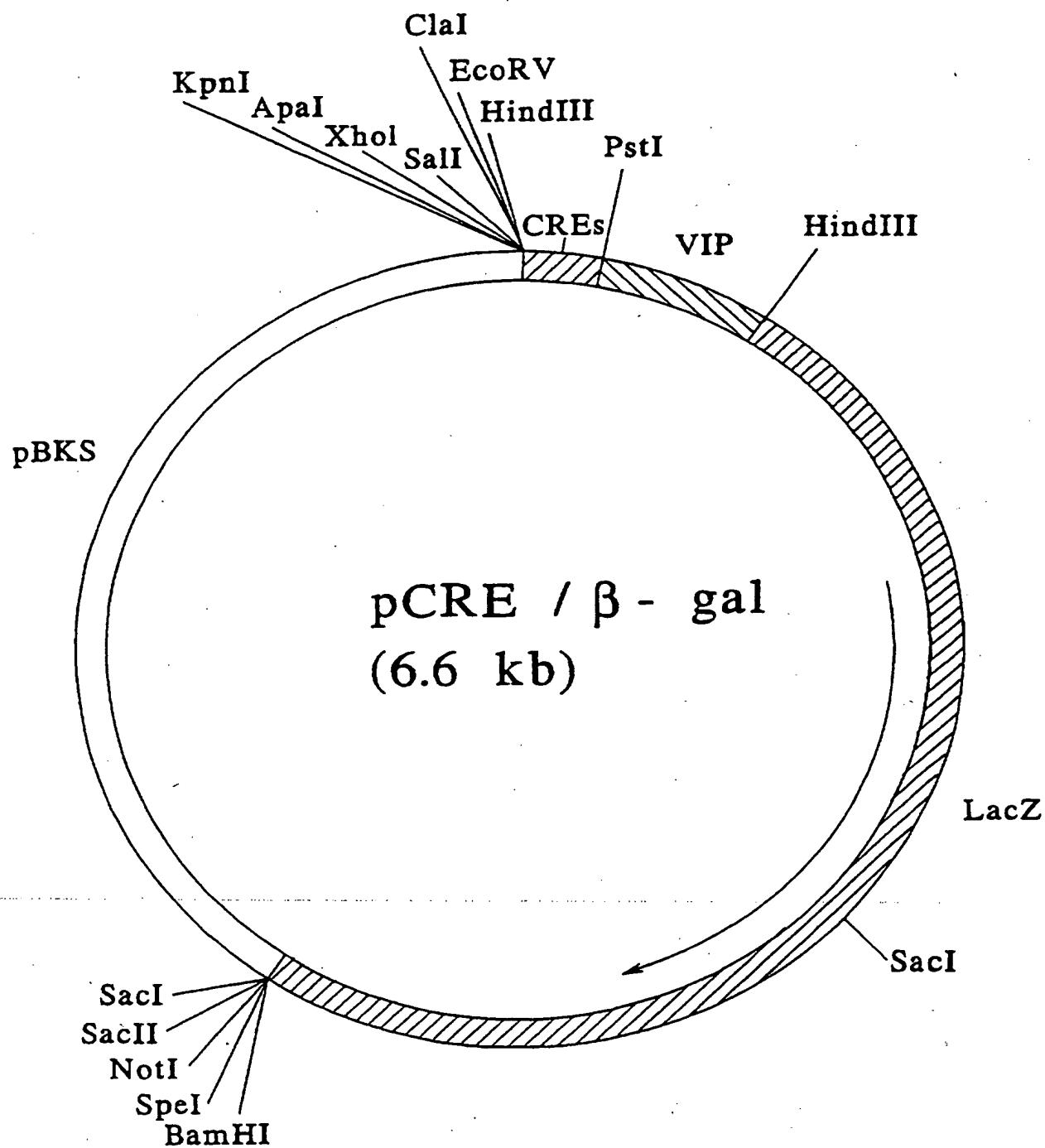


FIG. 13

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FIG. 14

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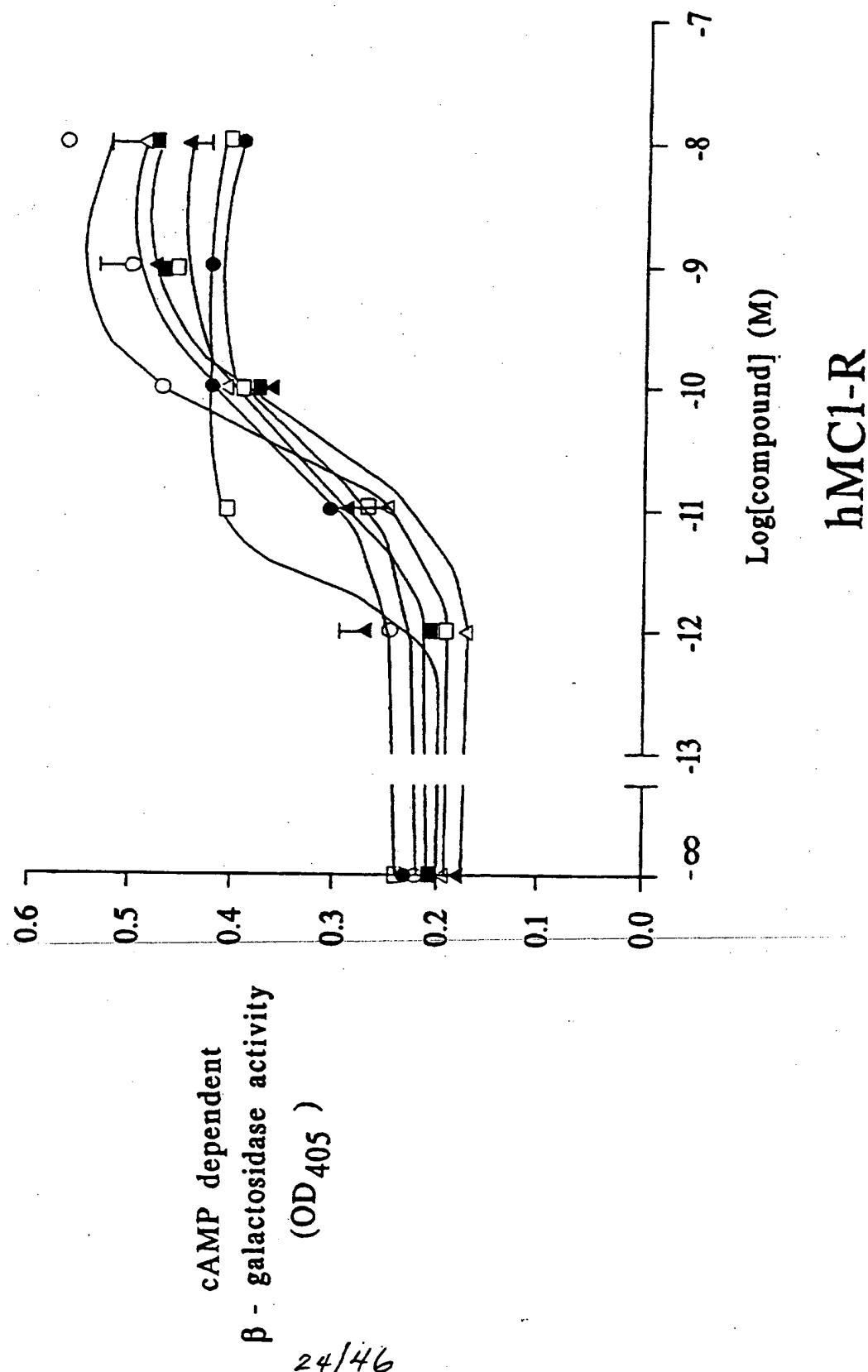
FIG. 15A

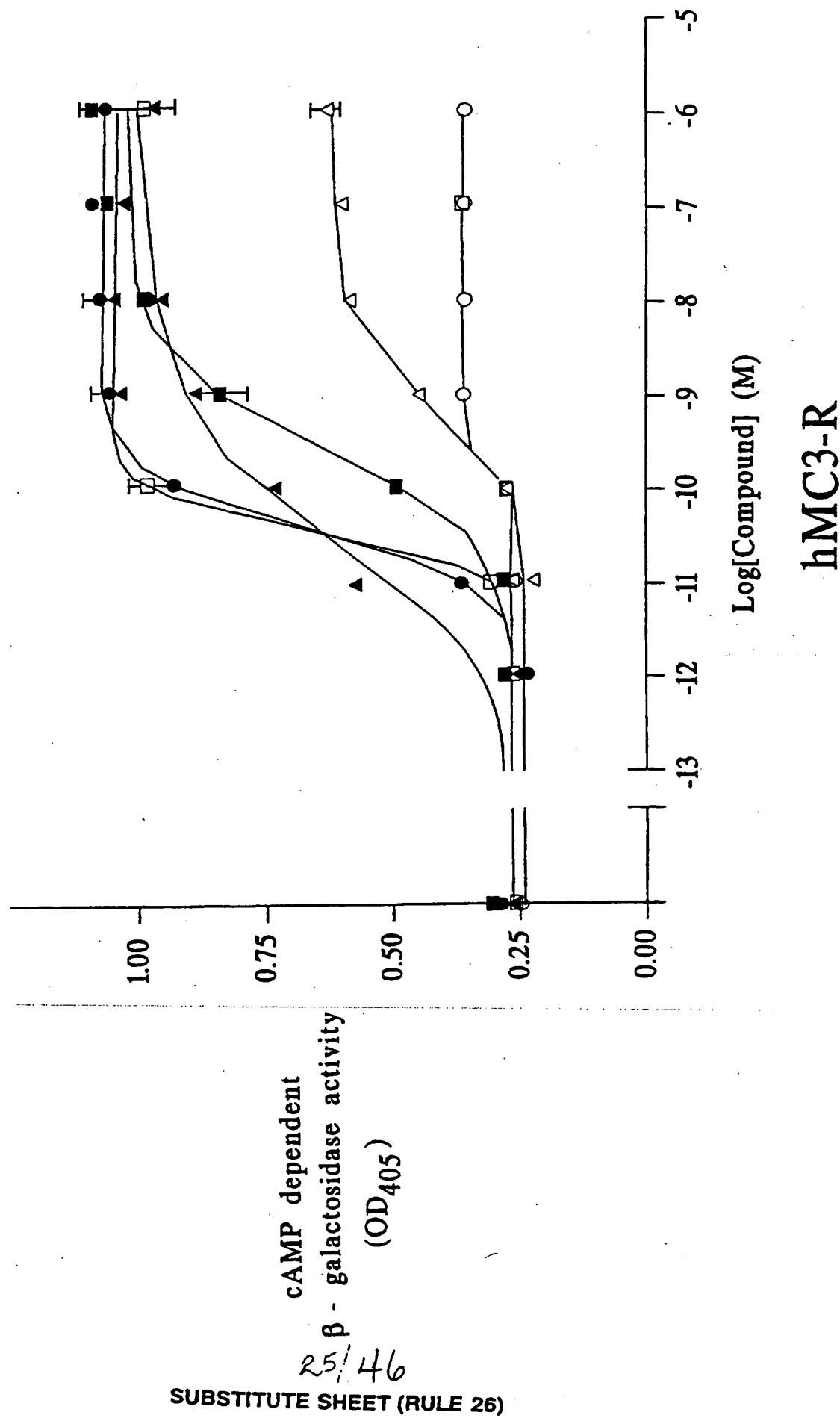
FIG. 15B

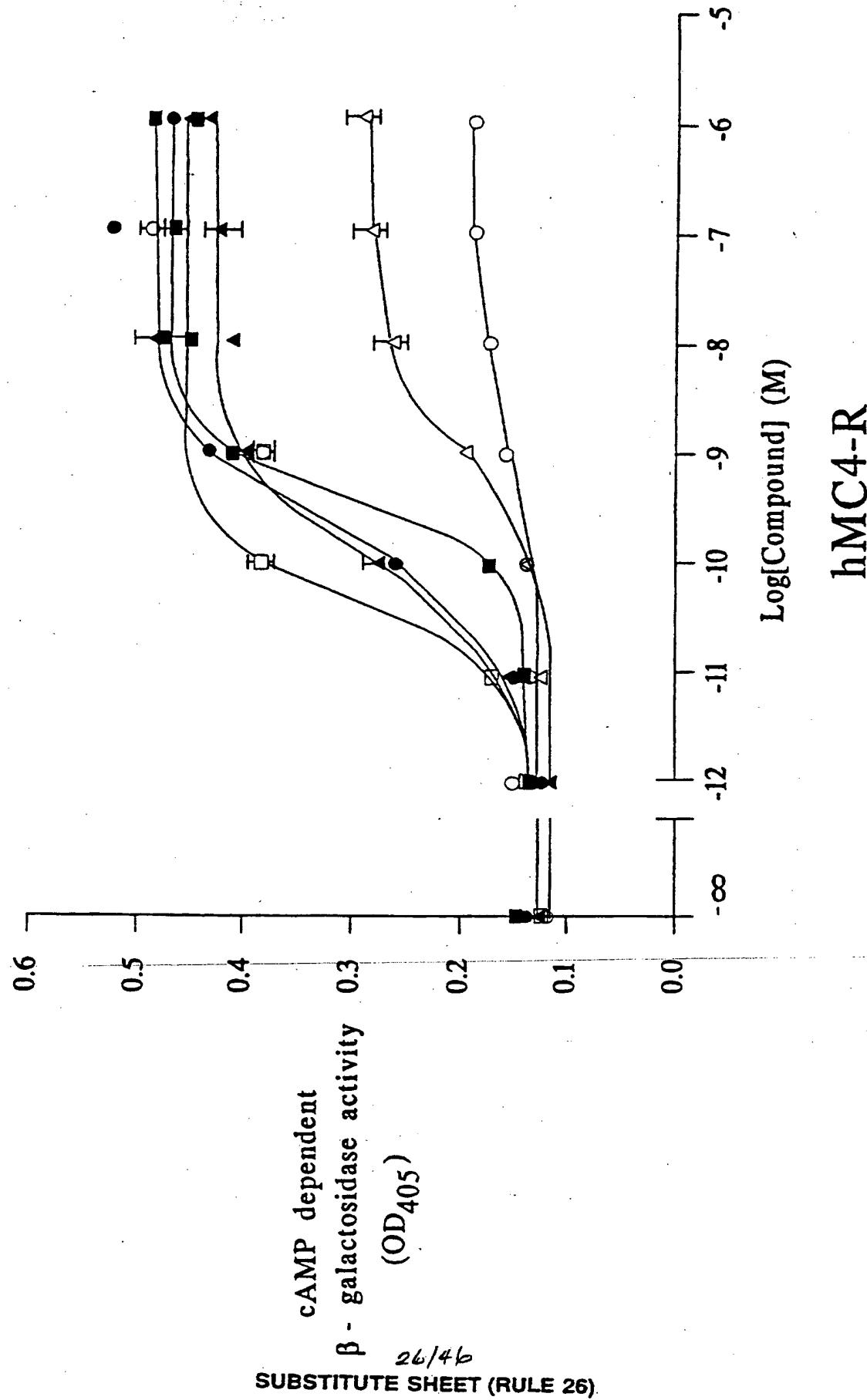
FIG. 15C

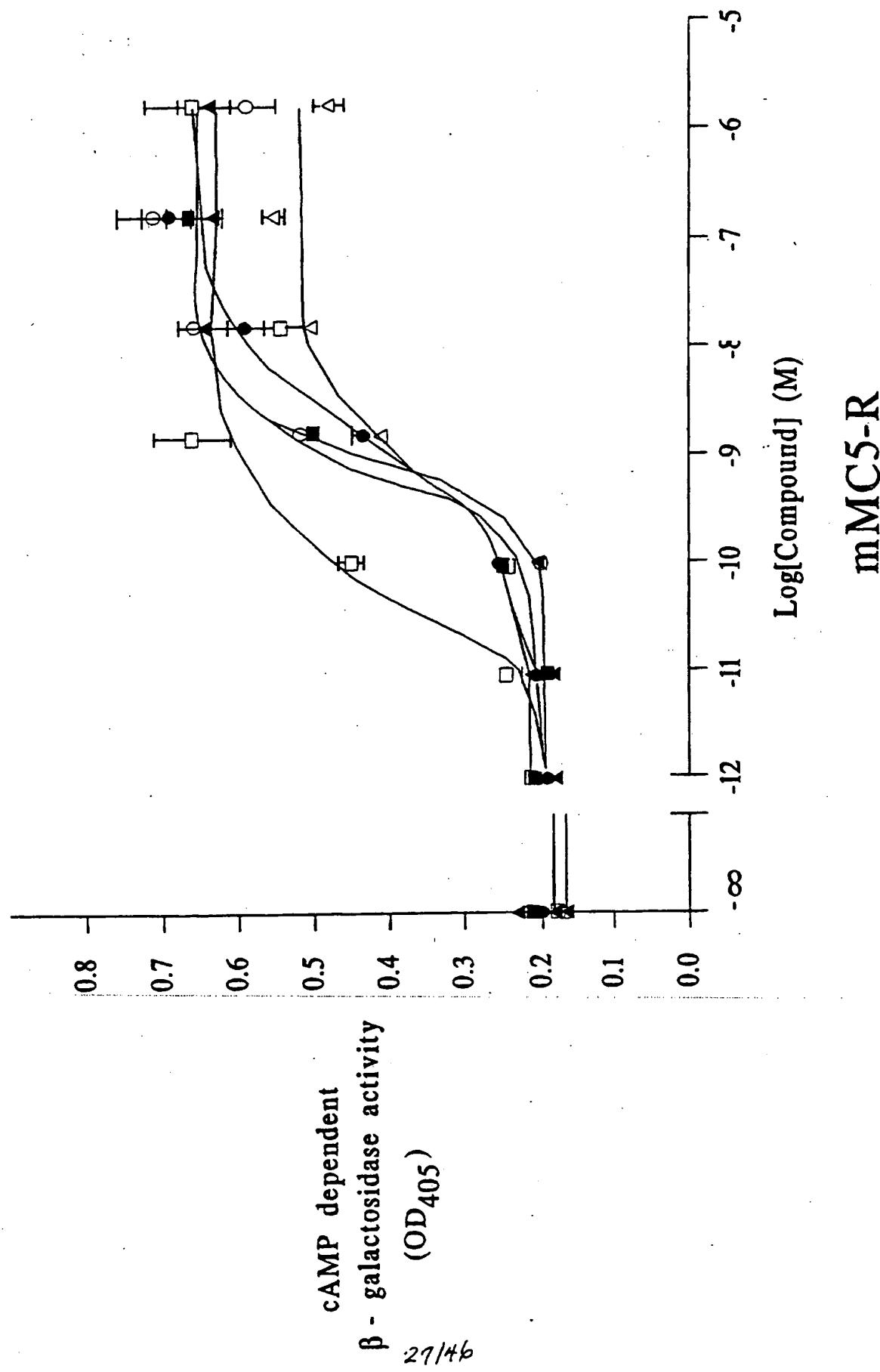
FIG. 15D

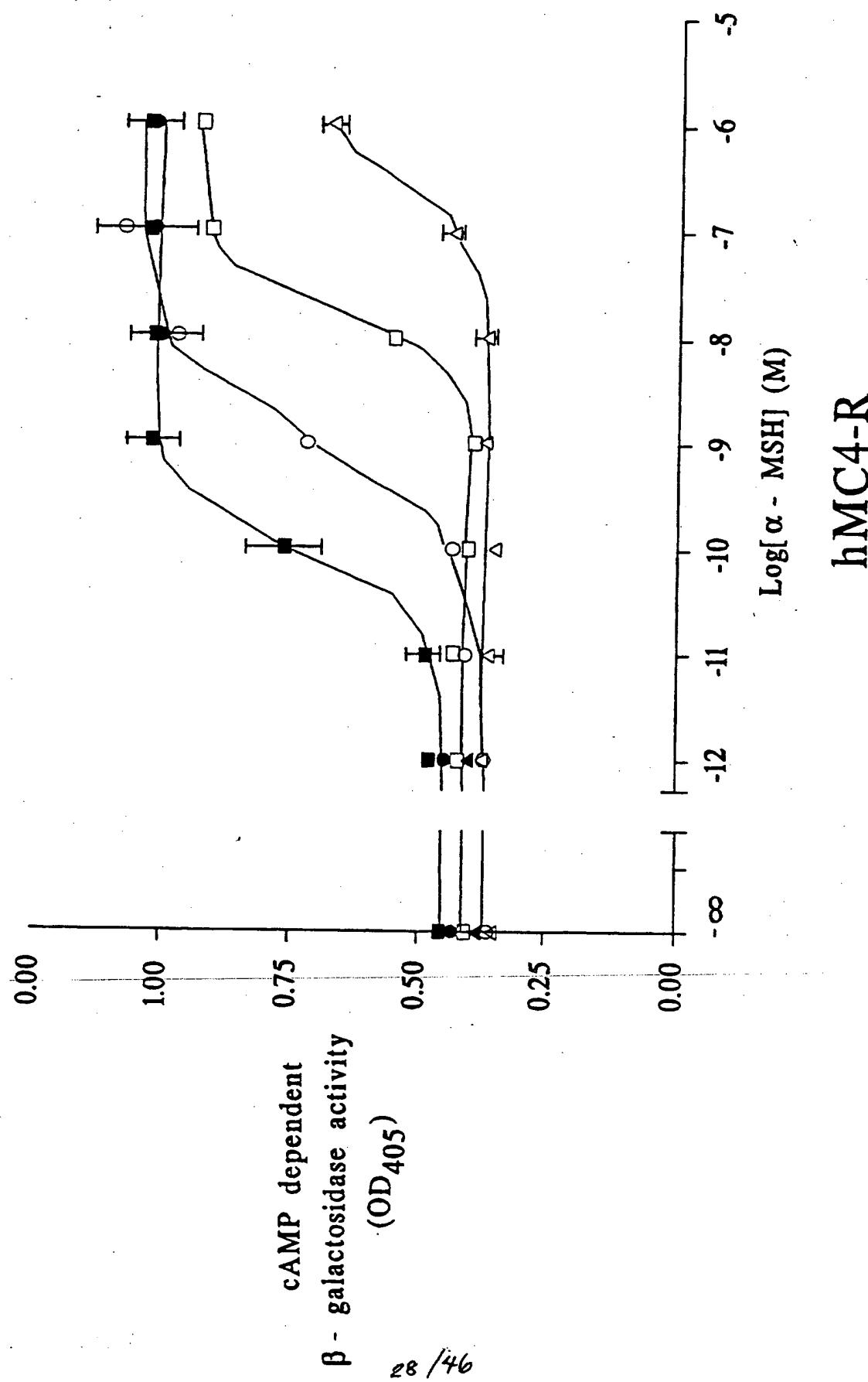
FIG. 16A

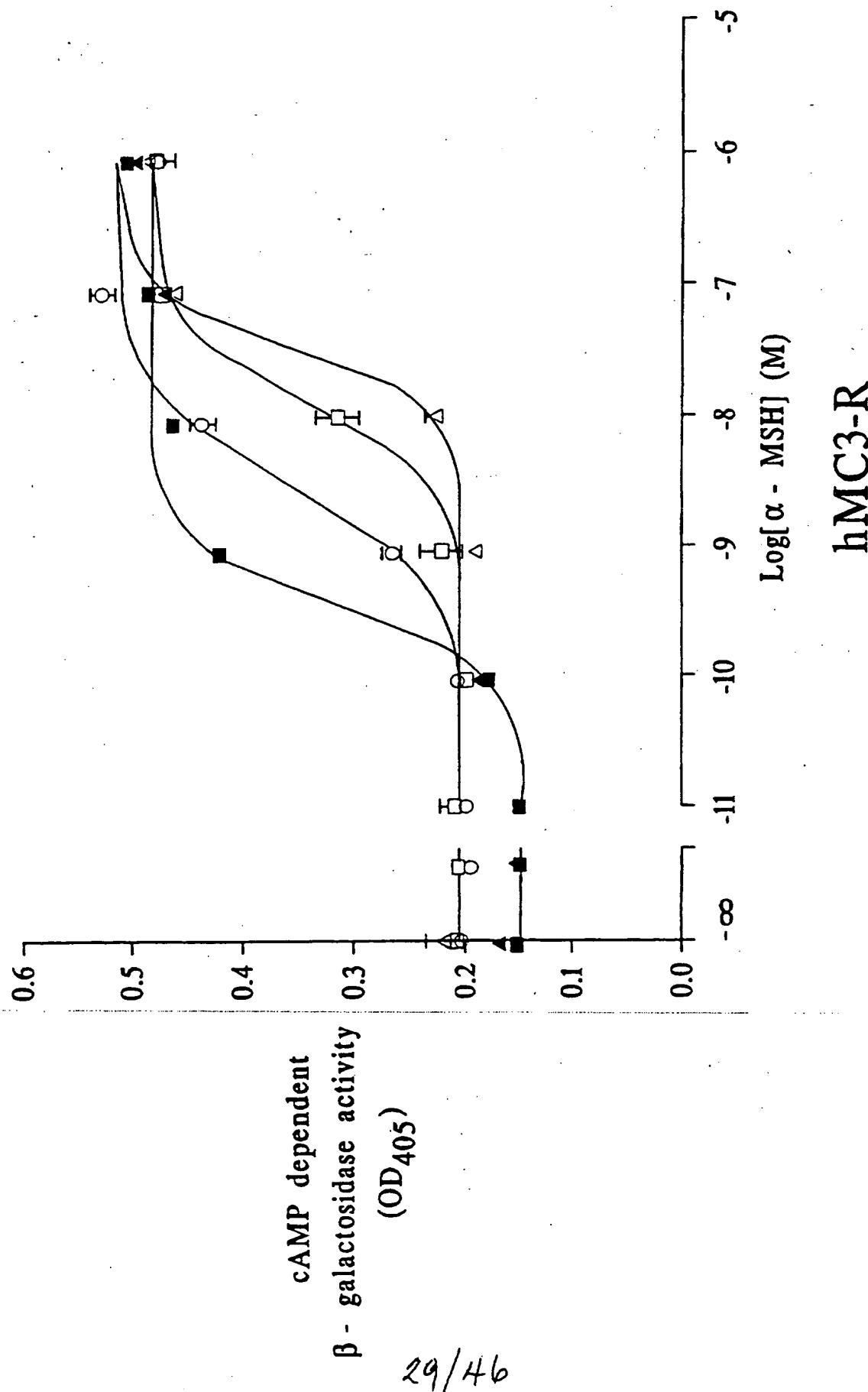
FIG. 16B

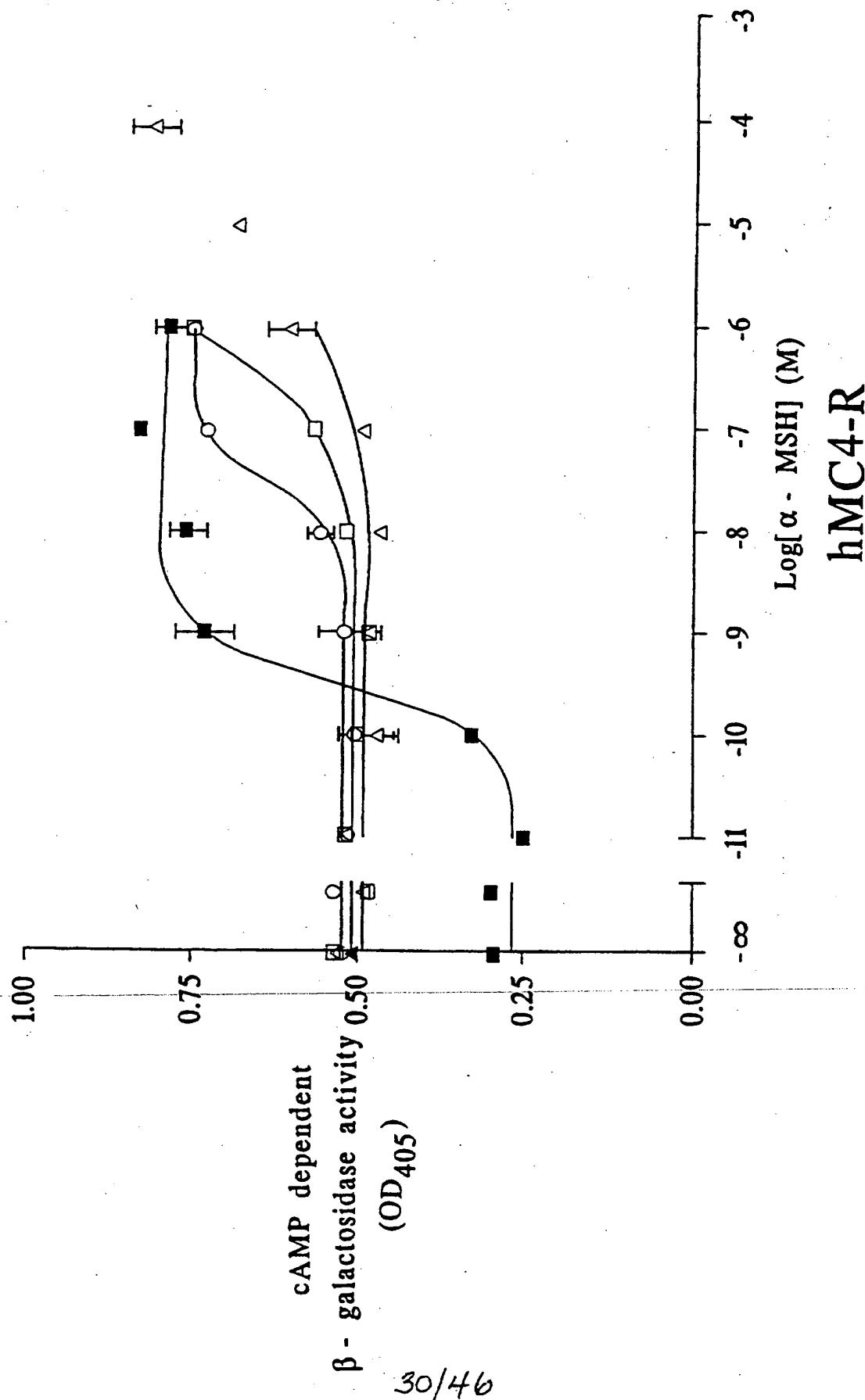
FIG. 16C

FIG. 16D

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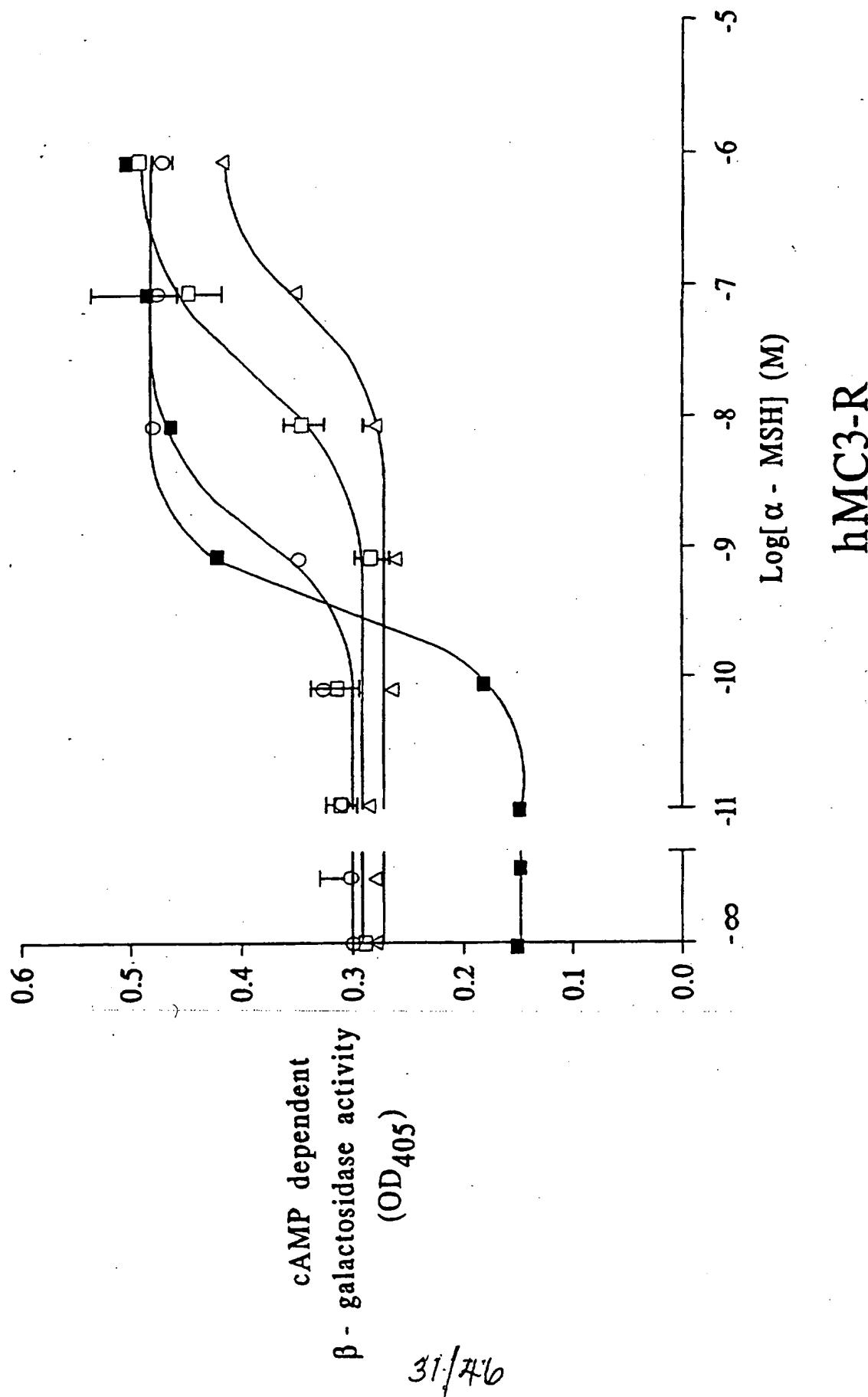


FIG. 17A

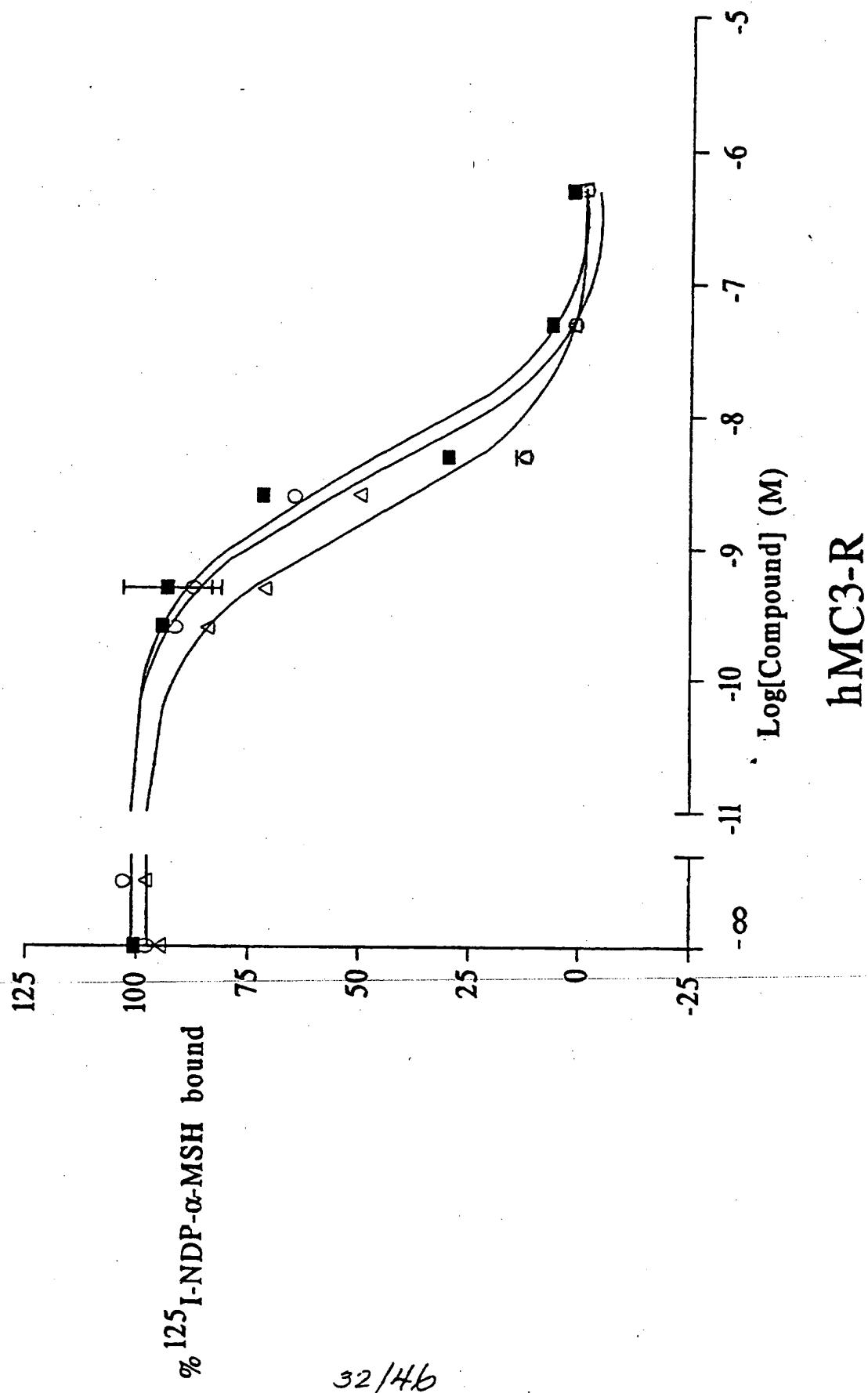


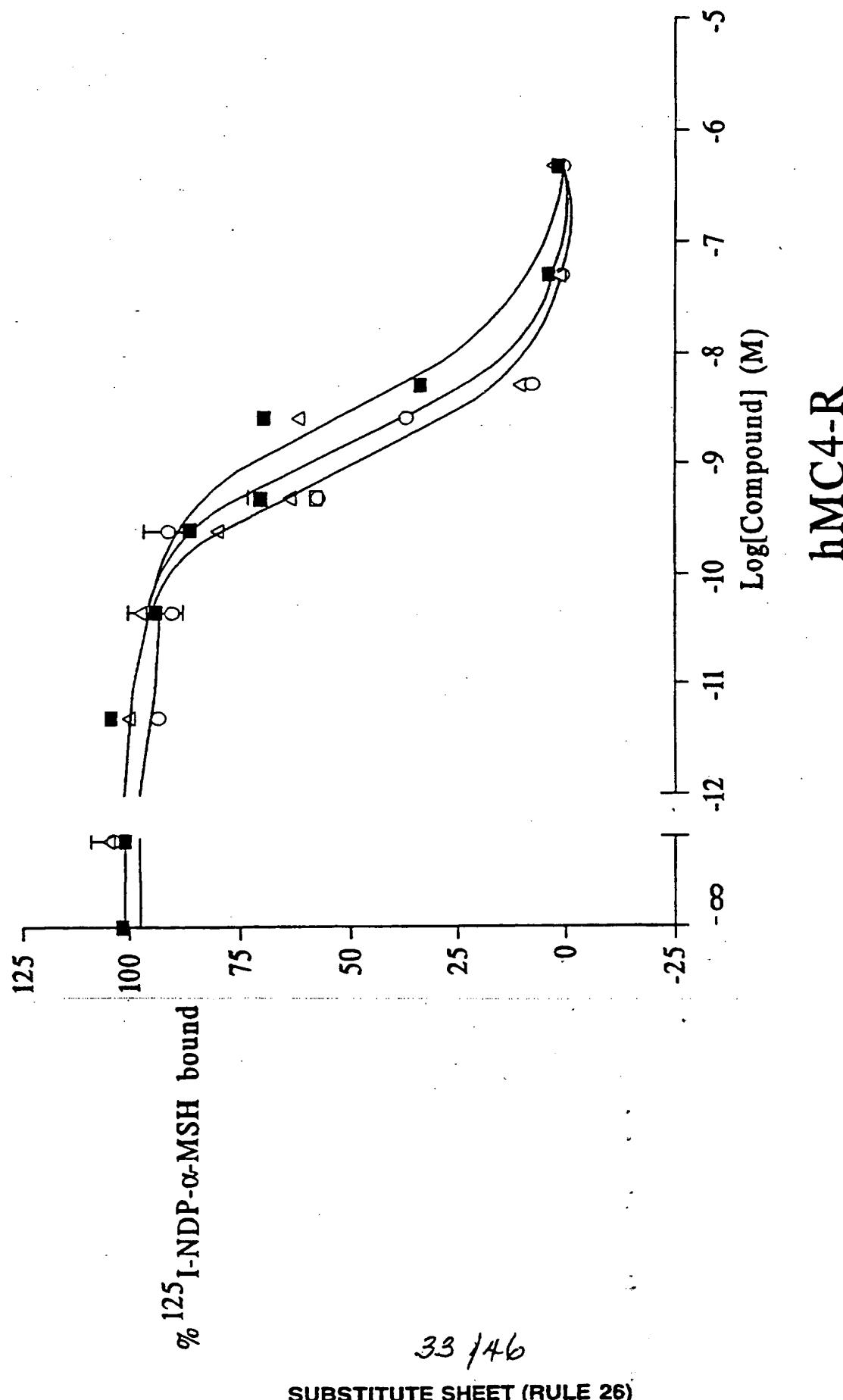
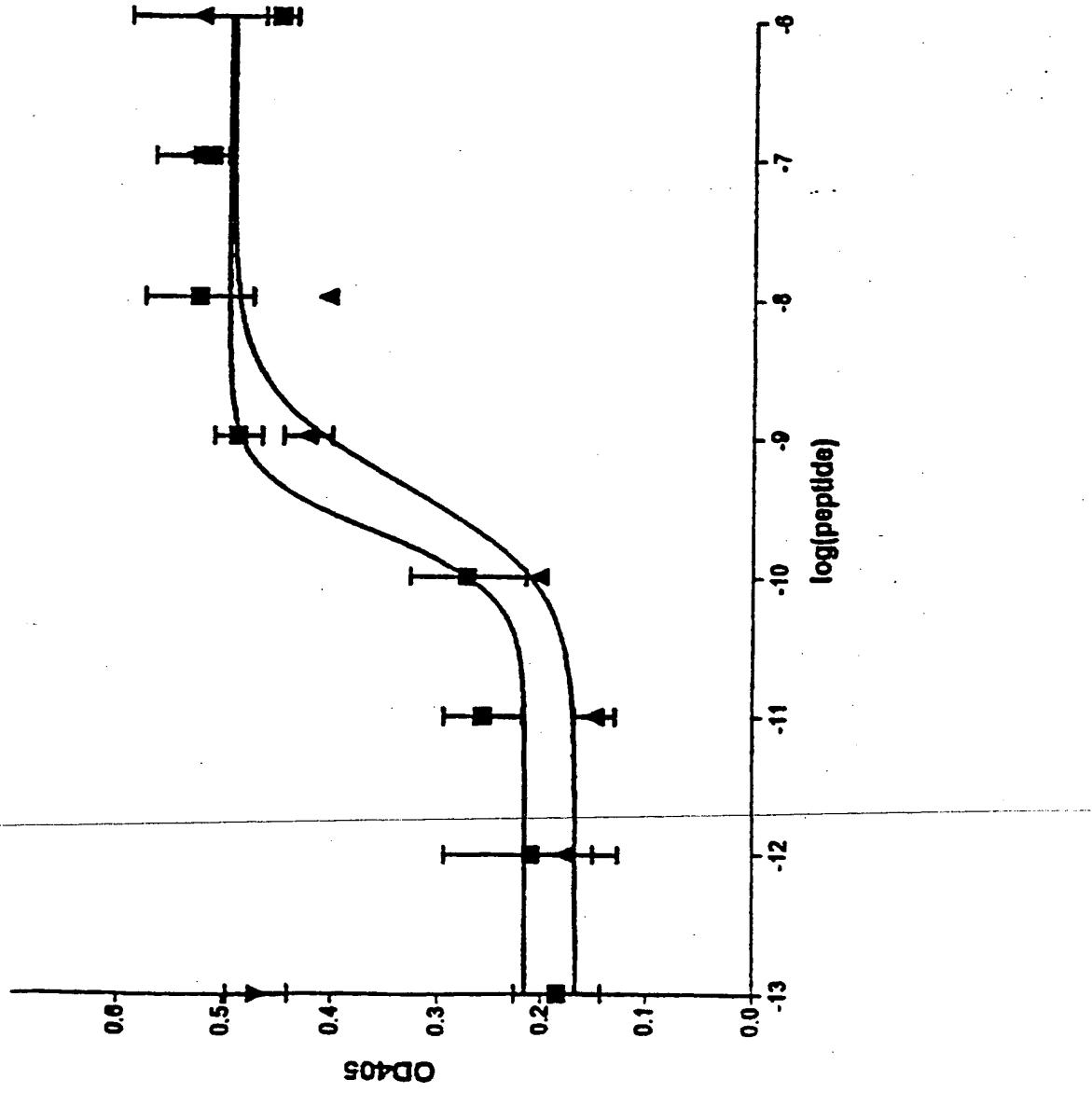
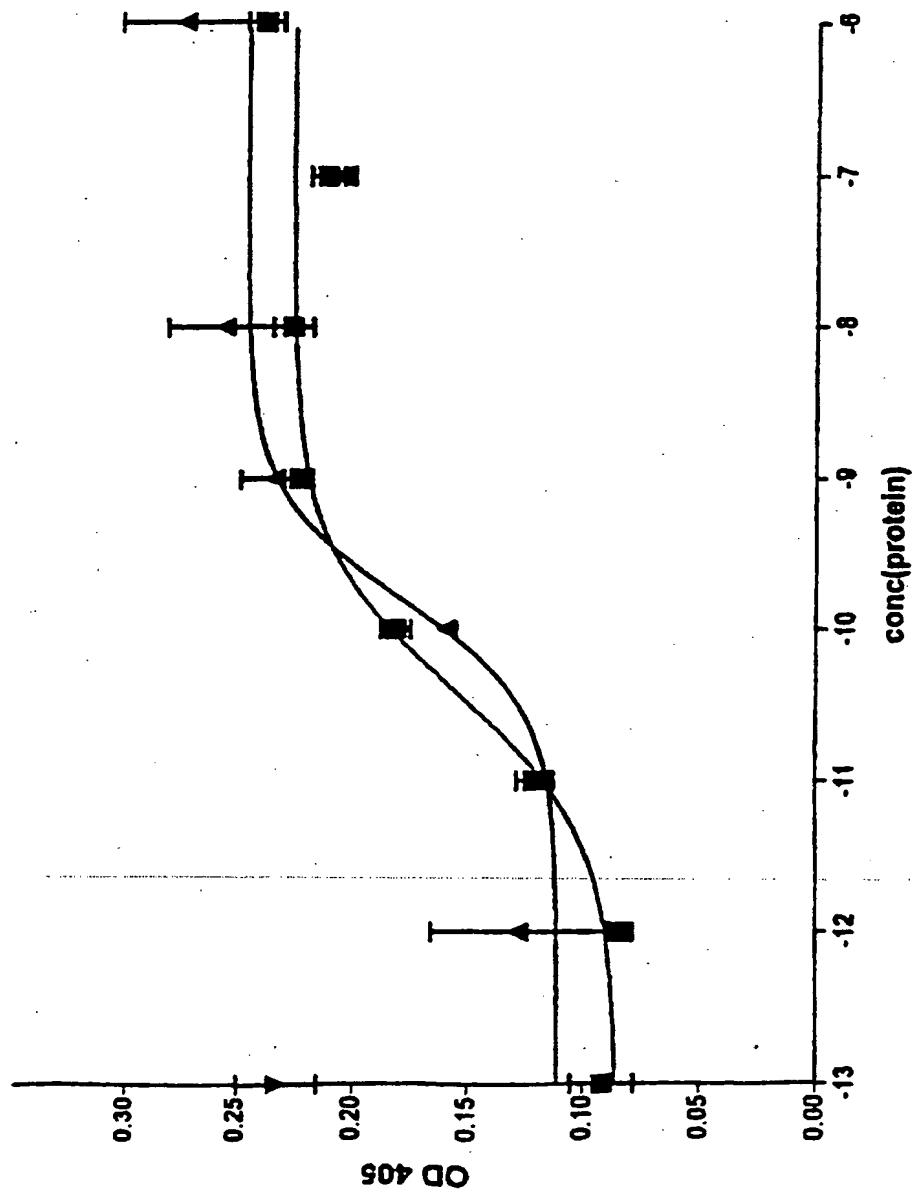
FIG. 17B

FIG. 18A



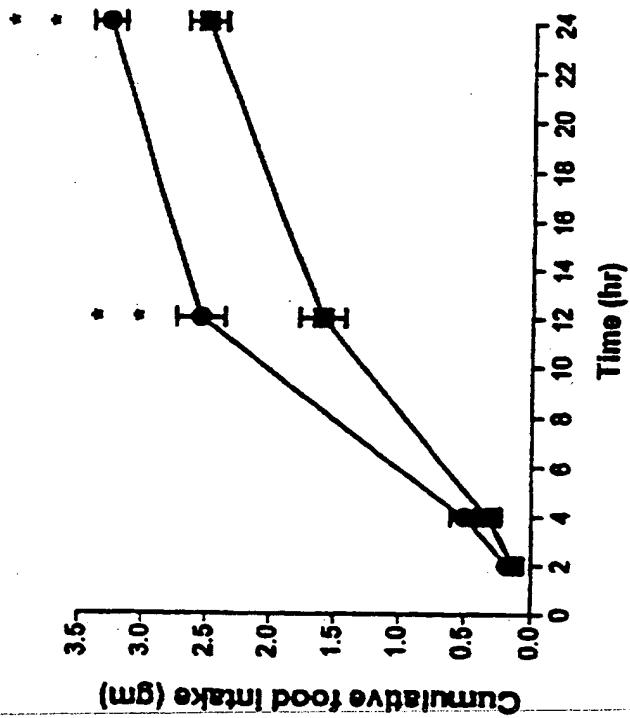
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FIG. 18B



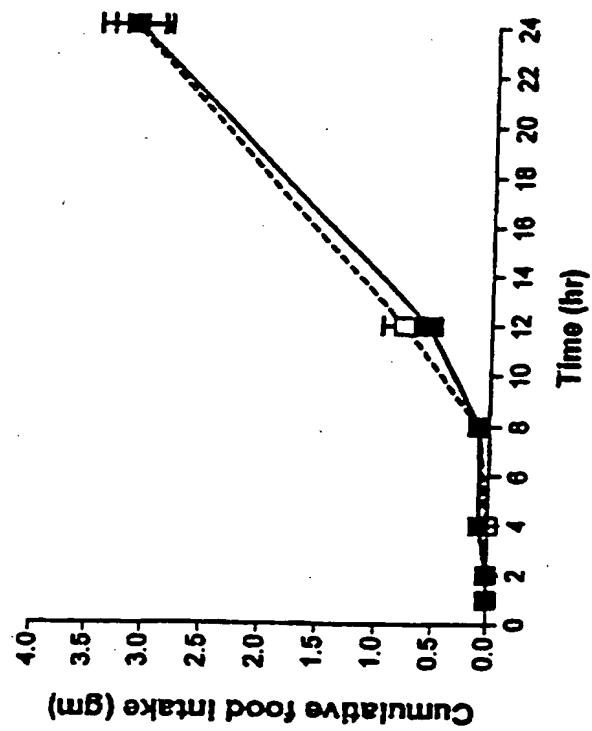
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FIG. 19A



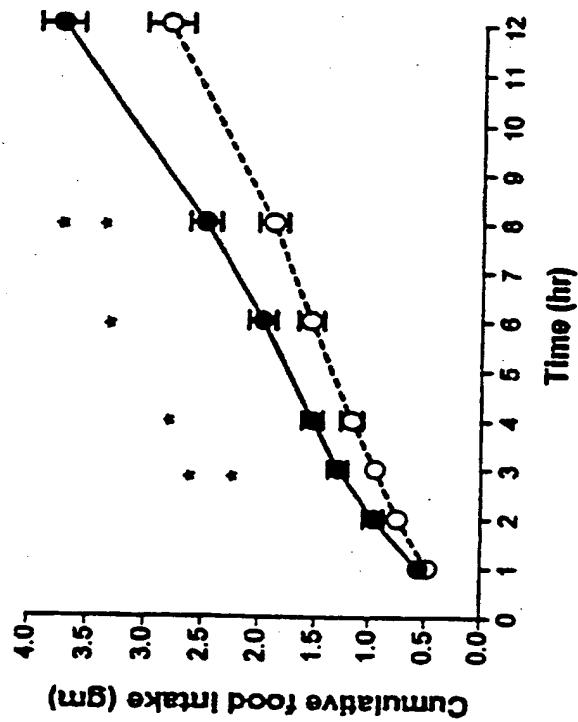
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FIG. 19B



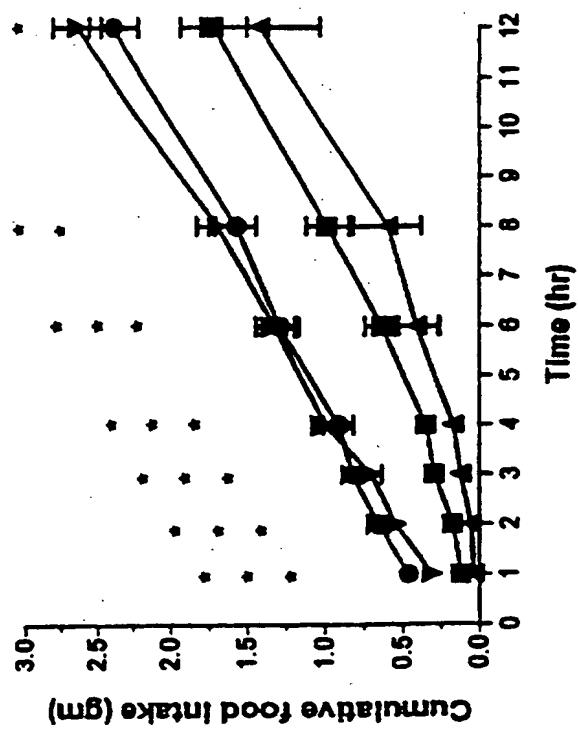
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FIG. 19C



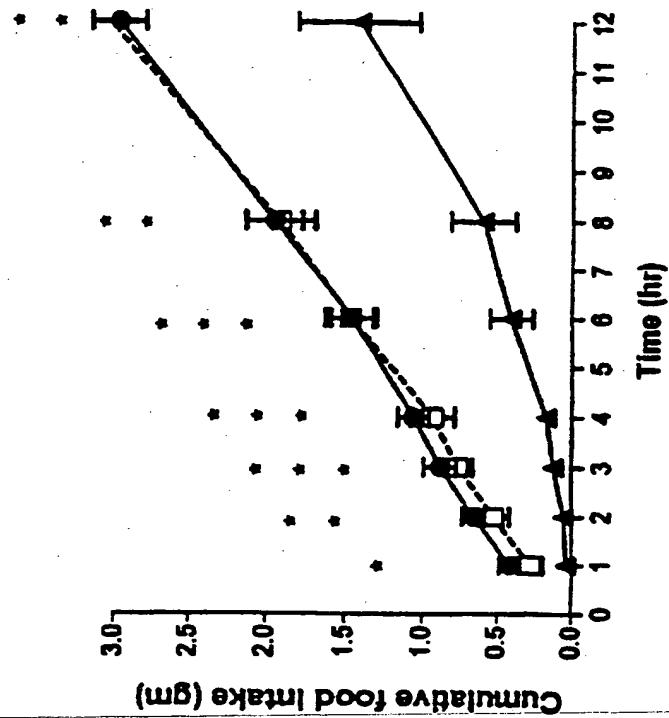
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FIG. 20A



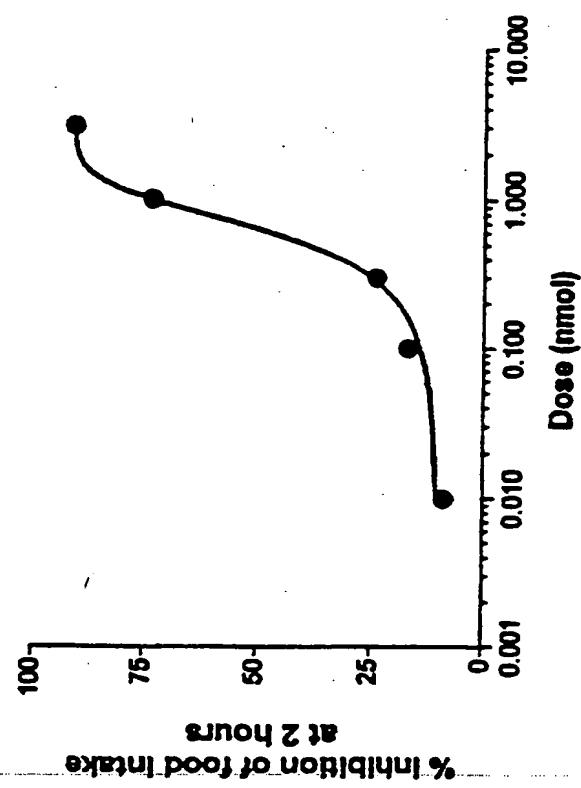
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FIG. 20B



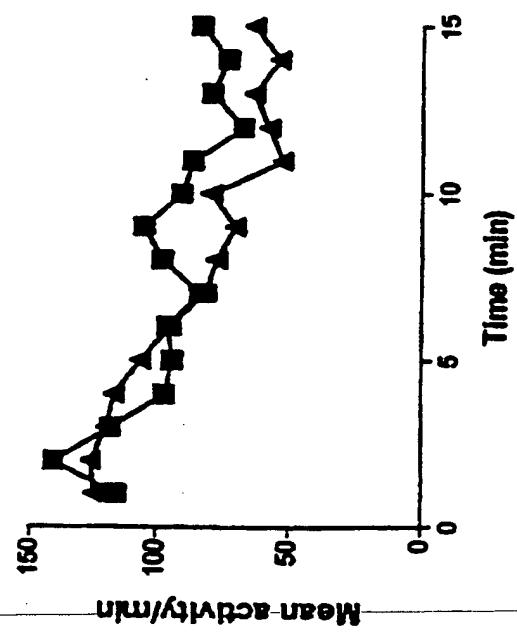
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FIG. 20C



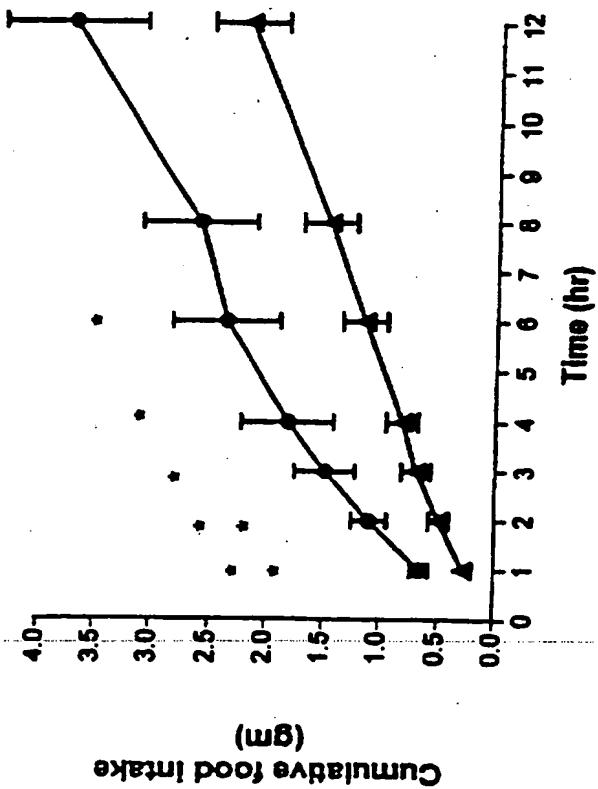
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FIG. 20D



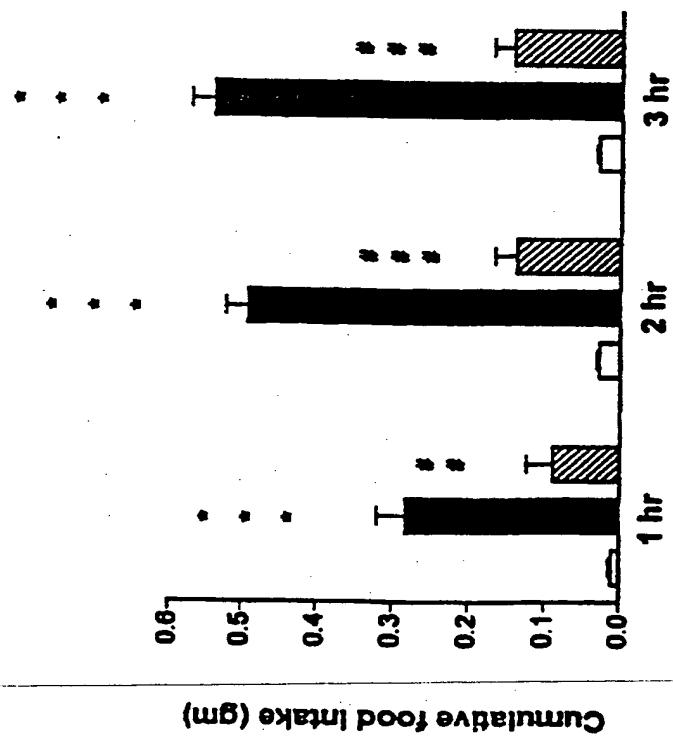
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FIG. 21A

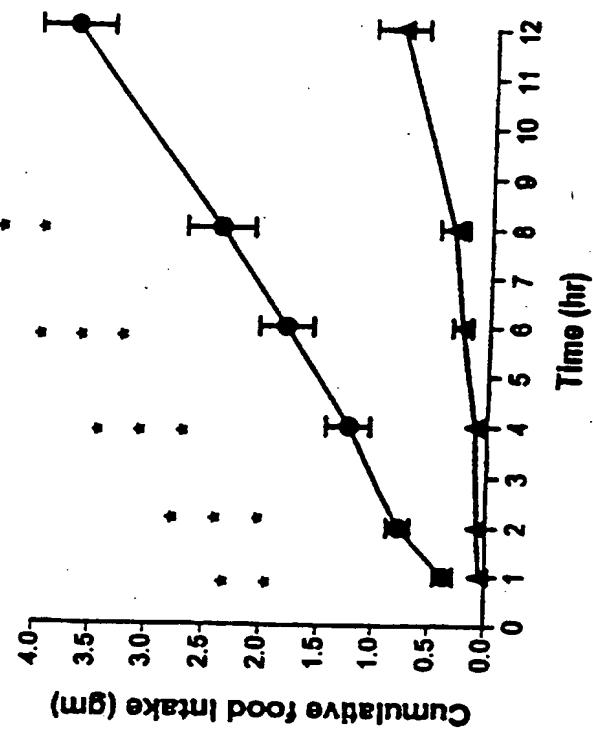


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FIG. 21B

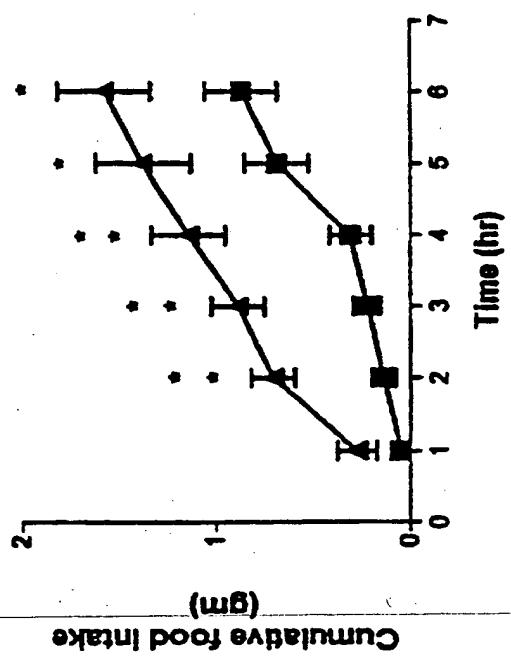


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FIG. 21C

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FIG. 21D



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Internal ref.	Application No.
PCT/US 97/15565	

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 6	C12N15/12	C12N15/85	C12N5/10	C12Q1/68	C07K14/72
	C07K14/685	G01N33/566	A61K38/17		

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 C07K C12Q

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	CHEN ET AL.: "A colorimetric assay for measuring activation of Gs- and Gq-coupled signaling pathways" ANALYTICAL BIOCHEMISTRY, vol. 226, 1995, pages 349-354, XP002051981 cited in the application see the whole document ---	1-20,31
A	WO 93 21316 A (OREGON STATE) 28 October 1993 see the whole document ---	1-20,31
A	FR 2 713 645 A (INST NAT SANTE RECH MED) 16 June 1995 see the whole document ---	1-20,31



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

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Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
19 January 1998	12.05.98

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 851 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Hagenmaier, S

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Intern	nal Application No
PCT/US 97/15565	

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	MOUNTJOY ET AL.: "The cloning of a family of genes that encode the melanocortin receptors" SCIENCE, vol. 257, 1992, pages 1248-1251, XP002051982 cited in the application see the whole document ---	1-20,31
A	GANTZ ET AL.: "Molecular cloning, expression, and gene localization of a fourth melanocortin receptor" J.BIO.CHEM., vol. 268, no. 20, 1993, pages 15174-15179, XP002051983 see the whole document ---	1-20,31
A	GANTZ ET AL.: "Molecular cloning of a novel melanocortin receptor" J.BIO.CHEM., vol. 268, no. 11, 1993, pages 8246-8250, XP002051984 see the whole document ---	1-20,31
A	LABBÉ ET AL.: "Molecular cloning of a mouse melanocortin 5 receptor gene widely expressed in peripheral tissues" BIOCHEMISTRY, vol. 33, 1994, pages 4543-4549, XP002051985 see the whole document ---	1-20,31
A	ROSELLI-REHFUSS ET AL.: "Identification of a receptor for gamma melanotropin and other proopiomelanocortin peptides in the hypothalamus and limbic system" PNAS, vol. 90, 1993, pages 8856-8860, XP002051986 cited in the application see the whole document -----	1-20,31

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

national application No.

PCT/US 97/15565

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see annex

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1-20, 31

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

1. Claims: 1-20,31

Method and reagents for characterizing a compound as an agonist/antagonist of a mammalian melanocortin receptor.

2. Claims: 21-24, 29, 30

Mammalian melanocortin MC-3 and/or MC-4 receptor agonist/antagonist.

3. Claims: 25, 26

A method of altering the feeding behavior in an animal.

4. Claims: 27, 28

A method (in vivo) for characterizing a mammalian melanocortin MC-3 and/or MC-4 receptor agonist/antagonist as an inhibitor/stimulator, respectively, of feeding behavior in an animal.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 97/15565

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